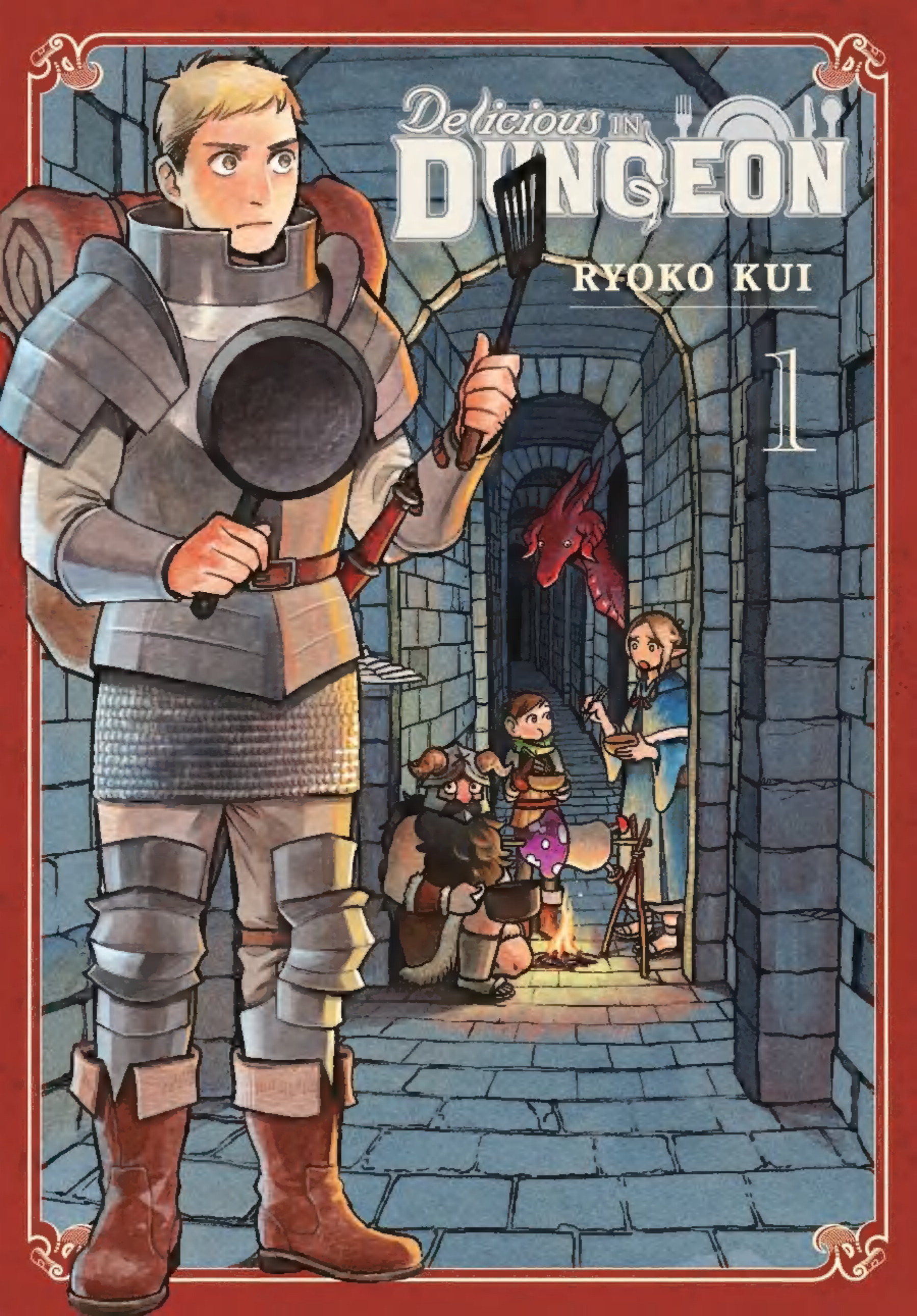
Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI
1

Delicious in Dungeon

Ryoko Kui

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Delicious in Dungeon

1

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IT BEGAN IN A TINY VILLAGE.
ONE DAY, THE FLOOR OF THE CATACOMBS CAVED IN WITH A SMALL RUMBLE, AND A MAN EMERGED FROM THE DEPTHS.
THE ONCE-SPLENDID COUNTRY HAD BEEN SEALED DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH BY A LUNATIC MAGICIAN, AND THERE IT REMAINED.
THE MAN SAID HE WAS THE KING OF A GOLDEN COUNTRY THAT HAD FALLEN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
Chapter 1
WITH THOSE FINAL WORDS, THE MAN TURNED TO DUST AND VANISHED.
I BESTOW MY ENTIRE KINGDOM UPON THE ONE WHO DEFEATS THE MAGICIAN.

GOOOOOO (RUMBLE)
GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT, GUYS!
ONCE WE SLAY THIS DRAGON, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
LET'S GET 'IM!
WE COULDN'T BE MORE PREPARED FOR THIS.
WE HAVE NO VULNERABILITIES.
EXCEPT...

...I'M HUNGRY.

ZUDONN (WHUD)

...AND FELL INTO A TRAP LOSING THREE DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD.

WHOA!

ON THE WAY HERE, WE WASTED A DAY WANDERING AROUND THANKS TO A MISTAKE ON OUR MAP...

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE GOING IN CIRCLES...

DOON (BOOM)

AAAH!

OUR MOVEMENTS ARE SLUGGISH.

WAAH!

IT'S A PAIN, BUT ONCE WE DEFEAT THIS DRAGON, WE'LL HAVE TO TURN BACK TEMPORARILY.

DEFENSIVE SPELLS WON'T WORK IN TIME.

SHUUU (ROAR)

HURRY, HEAL HER!

?
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SHE GET HIT BY A CONFUSION SPELL?
DON (SHOVE)
BIG BRO!
AH!
BAKUN (CHOMP)

HUH??
BOK (SNAP)
NO WAY...
HUH?
HUH?
WHEN WE'VE COME THIS FAR...
WIPED OUT.
ZO (SHUDDER)
KA (FLASH)
MISHI (CREAK)
R...
MISHI
RUN...
MISHI

1. Hot Pot

I'M HUNGRY...

MUKU (SIT)

GUU (GRUMBLE)

UNH...

SOMEONE MAGICKED US OUT OF THE DUN-GEON...

...BUT WE CAN'T FIND FALIN ANY-WHERE.

LAIOS! YOU'RE AWAKE?

NO...!

THE SPELL DIDN'T WORK ON WHAT WAS INSIDE THE DRAGON'S STOMACH.

SHE'S PROBABLY STILL IN THE DUNGEON.

.....

SHE GOT EATEN.

WHAT !?

?

THE THING IS...
...IT LOOKS LIKE MOST OF OUR INVENTORY GOT LEFT IN THE DUNGEON.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE BROKE.

I'M GOING TO GO SAVE HER.
W-WAIT A MINUTE.

THAT'S...
CHIL-CHUCK ?

RESIGNATION
...WE JUST LOST TWO PARTY MEM-BERS.

AND WORSE...
WE'RE WHAT?

I hereby
resignation effective
immediately to pursue
opportunities.
DD.MM.
I GUESS THEY'D BEEN GETTING OFFERS FROM OTHER GUILDS FOR A WHILE.
WHA...?

GIVE THOSE TO LAIOS WHEN HE WAKES UP.
WE'VE GOTTA MAKE A LIVING, Y'KNOW.
RESIGNATION

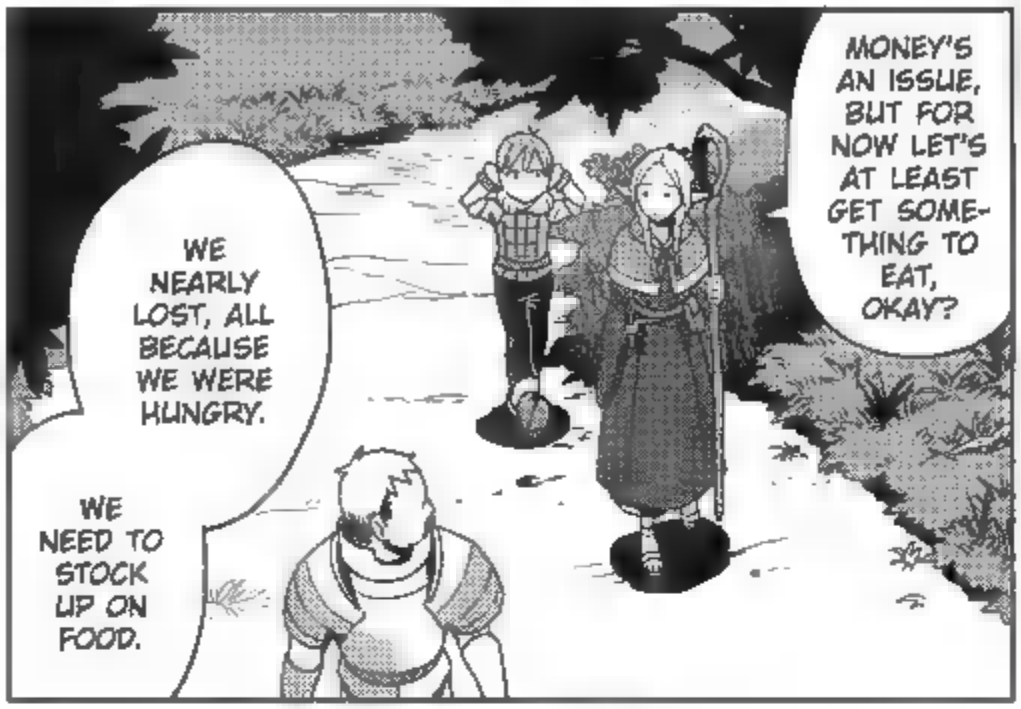
AND FOOD.
TOILET PAPER
POTS
THE COST OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT...
COMMODITIES...
ARMOR
SPARE CLOTHES
WEAPONS
LIGHT
IT TAKES MONEY TO EXPLORE THE DUNGEON.
FOOD
SLEEPING BAGS
POTIONS
WATER
THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF OUR SAVINGS...
HIRING PARTY MEMBERS...

...HIRE NEW MEMBERS...
WE'D NEED EQUIPMENT FOR THEM TOO.
WE COULD USE THE MONEY TO BUY CHEAP GEAR...
...GET FOOD, POTIONS, AND COMMODITIES...
Rank Down
MMBL MMBL
SAY WE SOLD OUR WEAPONS FOR CASH TO TIDE US OVER...

UGH...
HAS ANY ADVENTURER EVER BEEN REVIVED FROM POOP!?
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED FROM MINCEMEAT BEFORE, RIGHT!?
NOT THAT I'VE EVER HEARD OF.

MY LITTLE SISTER'S GOING TO BE DIGESTED WHILE WE'RE GETTING READY.

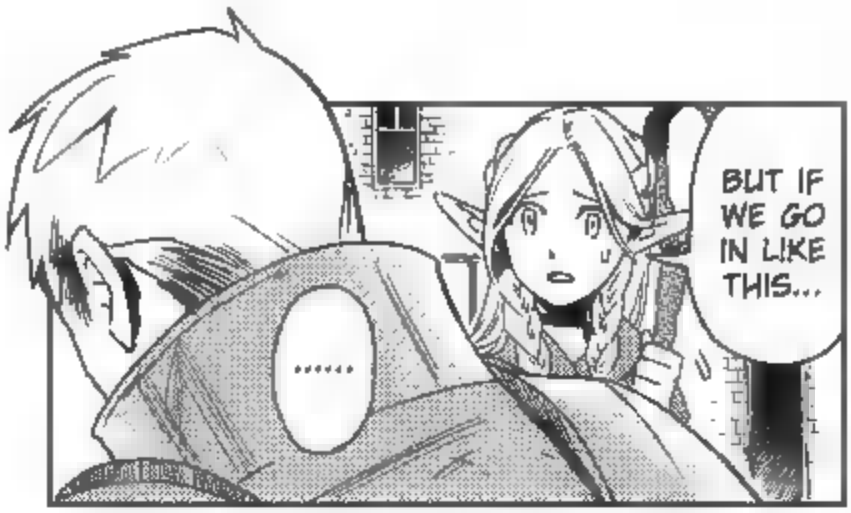
WOULD IT COVER ALL THAT?
NOT EVEN CLOSE.


WE NEARLY LOST, ALL BECAUSE WE WERE HUNGRY.
WE NEED TO STOCK UP ON FOOD.
MONEY'S AN ISSUE, BUT FOR NOW LET'S AT LEAST GET SOMETHING TO EAT, OKAY?

GYURURU (GURGLE)
GULUU (GRUMBLE)

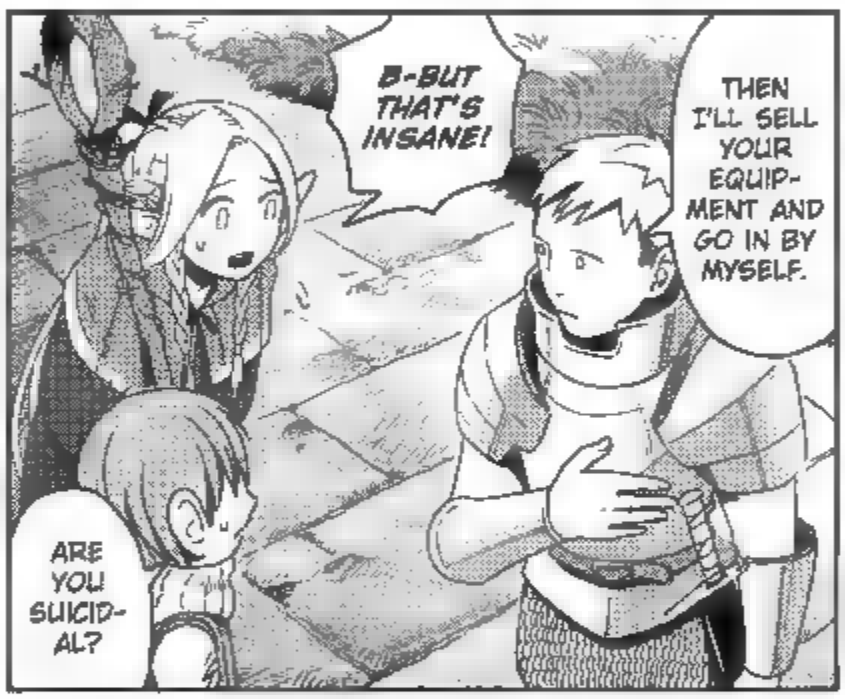
KABOBS, 190G
EXTRA-LARGE MIXED FRY RICE BOWL, 160G
GRILLED THICK-CUT BACON AND POTATOES
PORK STEW, 183G
THE PUBLIC DINING HALL ON THE AVENUE HAS CHEAP FOOD.
WHAT SHOULD I GET?
THE LAUGHING WOLF HAS BIGGER PORTIONS THOUGH.

210G
AND THEIR MEAT BUN SOUP IS REALLY YUMMY.
THEY THROW IN FREE TRAVEL RATIONS.
OH! BUT THAT TAVERN'S A GOOD OPTION TOO.


BUT IF WE GO IN LIKE THIS...
.....

NO. I HAVE TO GET BACK IN THE DUNGEON RIGHT AWAY.

I... HAVE AN IDEA.


B-BUT THAT'S INSANE!
THEN I'LL SELL YOUR EQUIP-MENT AND GO IN BY MYSELF.
ARE YOU SUICID-AL?

YOU TWO LEAVE THE GUILD.
WHAT ...!?

LAIOS...
YOU'D GO THAT FAR?

GU (GRIT)
!!

THIS WAS MY FAULT.
I CAN'T PUT YOU TWO IN DANGER AS WELL.

IF I'M ALONE, I CAN AVOID MONSTERS AND REACH THE DEPTHS WITH MINIMAL FIGHTING.
NO. THAT WAY, I WON'T HAVE TO DOWN-GRADE MY GEAR.
IT'S NOT IMPOSSI-BLE.

YOU'D BETTER NOT FORGET MY SPECIALTY EITHER.

YOU NEED SOMEBODY WHO UNLOCKS DOORS AND DISARMS TRAPS.

YOU KNOW HOW POWERFUL MY MAGIC IS.

AND DON'T TELL ME I'LL HOLD YOU BACK.

NO! I'M ABSOLUTELY GOING WITH YOU!

I CARE ABOUT FALIN TOO.

YOU GUYS...

NO MATTER WHAT!!?

YOU REALLY INTEND TO COME WITH ME?

?

UH...

UH-HUH...?

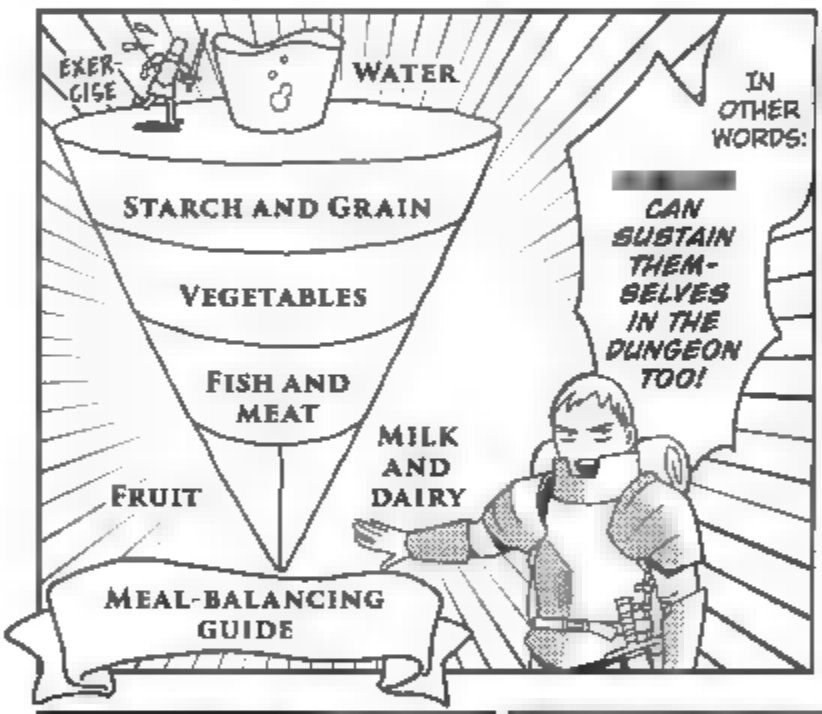
?

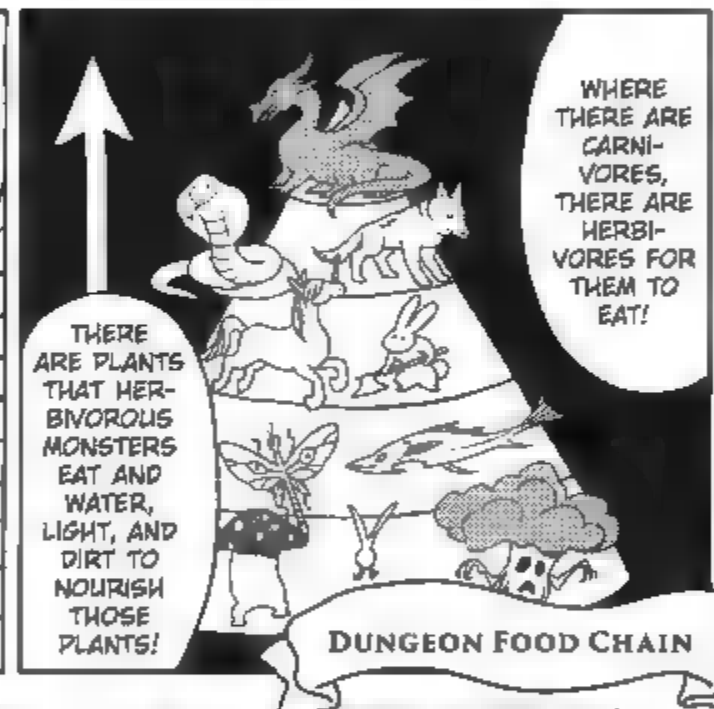
?

GASHI (GRAB)

WHAT !?
THE DUNGEON IS SWARMING WITH MONSTERS.
THAT MEANS IT HAS AN ECOSYSTEM.

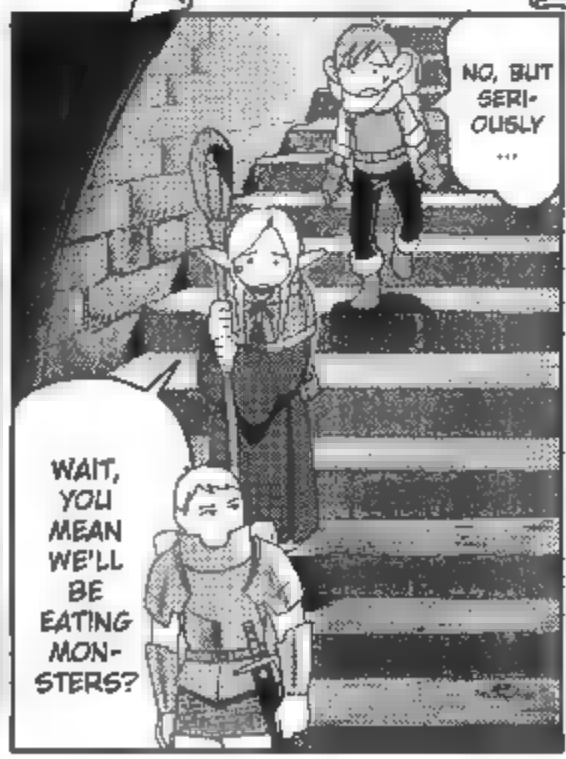
DUNGEON ENTRANCE
WE'LL FORAGE FOR FOOD IN THE DUNGEON.


EXERCISE
WATER
STARCH AND GRAIN
VEGETABLES
FISH AND MEAT
MILK AND DAIRY
FRUIT
MEAL-BALANCING GUIDE
IN OTHER WORDS:
[redacted] CAN SUSTAIN THEMSELVES IN THE DUNGEON TOO!

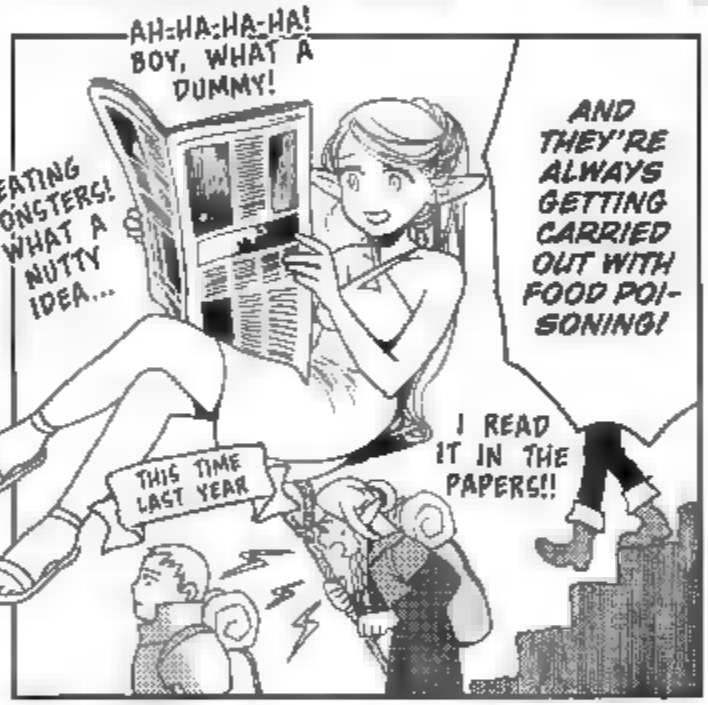

WHERE THERE ARE CARNIVORES, THERE ARE HERBIVORES FOR THEM TO EAT!
THERE ARE PLANTS THAT HERBIVOROUS MONSTERS EAT AND WATER, LIGHT, AND DIRT TO NOURISH THOSE PLANTS!
DUNGEON FOOD CHAIN

THINK ABOUT OUR PAST ADVENTURES.
SOME OF WHAT WE SAW LOOKED PRETTY TASTY.

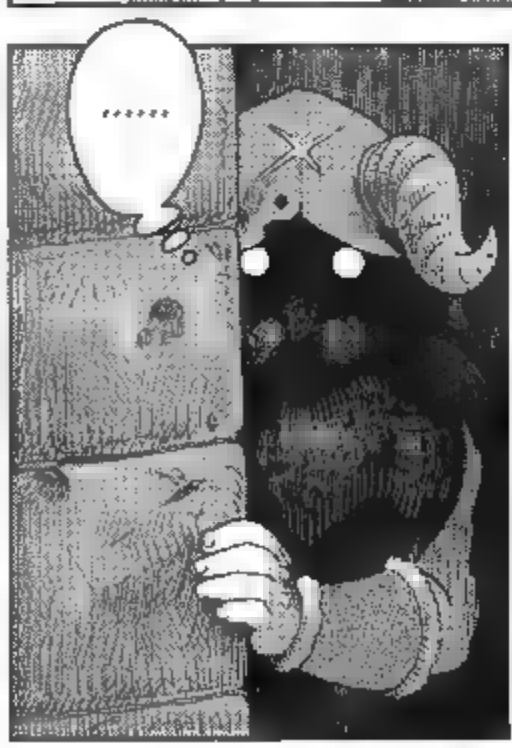
YUP.
WE'LL EAT ANYTHING THAT LOOKS EDIBLE.


NO, BUT SERIOUSLY ...
WAIT, YOU MEAN WE'LL BE EATING MONSTERS?

NO! I CAN'T!
I REALLY, REALLY CAN'T!
MAYBE?
I GUESS IT'S DOABLE...


AH-HA-HA-HA! BOY, WHAT A DUMMY!
EATING MONSTERS! WHAT A NUTTY IDEA...
AND THEY'RE ALWAYS GETTING CARRIED OUT WITH FOOD POI-SONING!
THIS TIME LAST YEAR
I READ IT IN THE PAPERS!!

YEAH, CRIMINALS WHO CAN'T GO BACK ABOVE-GROUND !!
QUITE A FEW PEOPLE DO HUNT MONSTERS FOR FOOD.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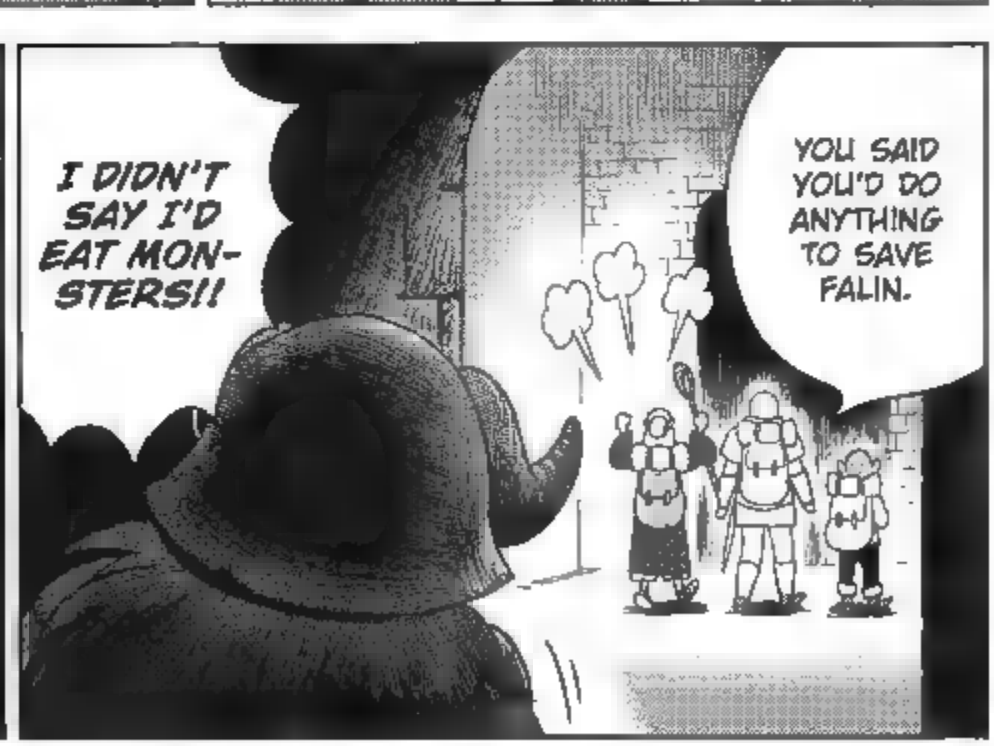

I DIDN'T SAY I'D EAT MON-STERS!!
YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO SAVE FALIN.

EVEN SO...
...IF WE EAT SOMETHING WEIRD AND WIND UP WITH FOOD POISONING, IT'LL ALL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING...

DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER IDEA?
THEN...
...WE DON'T HAVE TIME OR MONEY TO BUY FOOD.

TE (TLIP)
てっ
TE
てっ
TE
てっ

DOTA
どた
DOTA (SCRAMBLE)
どたっ

YA RUUUN!
EEEEK
!

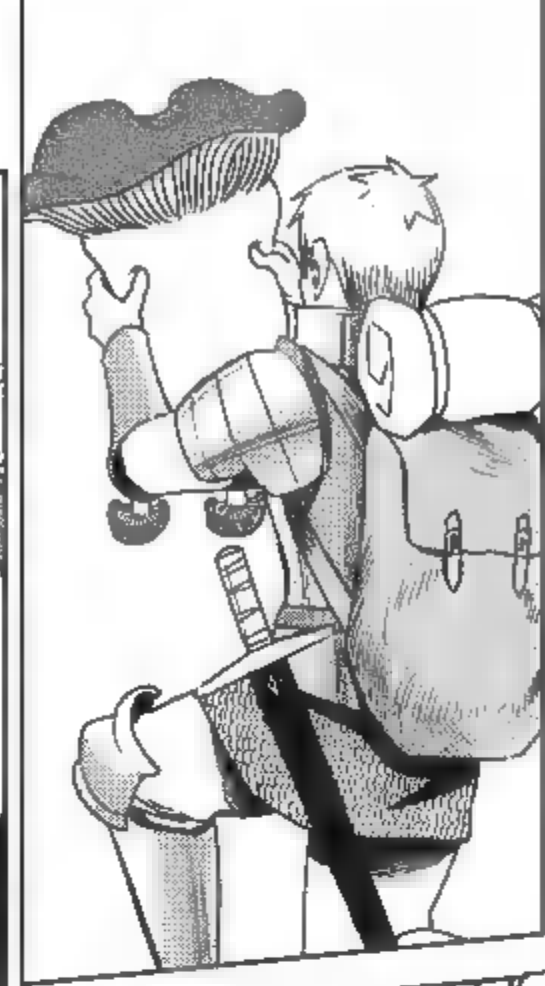
HM?

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN NEW-BIES.
AND THIS MONSTER ROUTED THEM? THEY MAY NOT BE CUT OUT FOR THIS...

ゴス
GOSU (WHUMP)

LET'S HAVE THIS FOR LUNCH.

WAIT... LAIOS...



NOOO!

THE DUNGEON GOURMET GUIDE SAYS THEY'RE A SUITABLE FOOD FOR BEGIN-NERS.
MAYBE IT'S POISONOUS.
STARTING WITH A MUSHROOM MIGHT BE RISKY.

NO, NO, NO!
I DON'T WANNA!

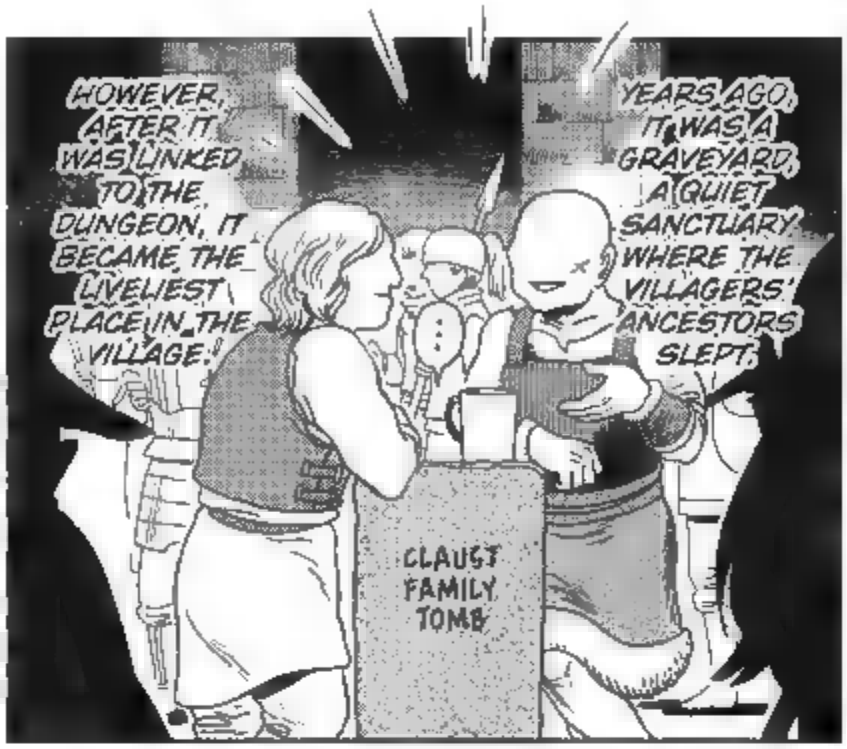
WHAT IS THIS BOOK?
IT'S FULL OF MARGIN NOTES...
IT'S SEEN SOME SERI-OUS USE.
IT SAYS THEY'RE MEATY AND MILD FLAVORED.

UH...

THOSE ARE THE FOOTSTEPS OF A HUGE SCORPION!
SAY, YOU DON'T THINK HE'S...

KASA
KASA (SKITTER)
AH!

LET'S FIND AN OPEN SPACE AND BUILD A FIRE.
I'D LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER INGREDIENT OR TWO, BUT...


HOWEVER, AFTER IT WAS LINKED TO THE DUNGEON, IT BECAME THE LIVELIEST PLACE IN THE VILLAGE.
YEARS AGO, IT WAS A GRAVEYARD, A QUIET SANCTUARY WHERE THE VILLAGERS' ANCESTORS SLEPT.
CLAUST FAMILY TOMB

DUN-GEON IF
EVEN THOUGH IT'S IN THE DUNGEON, THIS PLACE GETS LOTS OF TRAFFIC, AND IT'S ALWAYS TEEMING WITH ADVENTURERS AND MERCHANTS.

GURU
GURU (WRAP)
IT ISN'T CLEAR WHETHER THEY'RE CREATURES FROM ABOVE-GROUND THAT WERE TRANS-FORMED BY FORBIDDEN SPELLS...
...OR IF THEY WERE SUMMONED FROM A DEMON WORLD.

SA (SHIFT)

THEY SAY MONSTERS COME UP FROM THE DUNGEON'S DEPTHS.

HOWEVER, THEY'RE THE ONLY PROOF THAT SUPPORTS THE EXIS-TENCE OF THE CURSED GOLDEN CITY.
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
DOSU (WHUMP)
DOSU

GAKI (SNAP)

EITHER WAY, THEY ALL LOOK VERY STRANGE...
SUUU (SLIDE)
...AND THEY ATTACK AS IF THEY'RE PROTECTING SOMETHING.

NEWBIES GET HURT BECAUSE THEY ONLY PAY ATTENTION TO THE STINGER WHEN THEY FIGHT.
SAFE
DANGER
DANGER
IF YOU STIMULATE THEM, YOU CAN CATCH THEM EVEN WITHOUT BAIT, SO THEY'RE ACTUALLY EASIER THAN CRAYFISH.
...HEY.

FIRST, HUGE SCORPIONS GRAB AND HOLD THEIR PREY WITH THEIR PINCERS.
THEN THEY INJECT A NEURO-TOXIN WITH THEIR TAILS.
2
IT'S A REFLEX, SO IT'S FAST.
1

DON'T CATCH IT LIKE IT'S A CRAY-FISH.

YEAH, YEAH.
I REALLY DO WANT TO SAVE MY SISTER THOUGH.

KAA (BLUSH)

ADMIT IT.
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO EAT THIS STUFF FOR AGES, HAVEN'T YOU?

BEFORE LONG, I STARTED WONDERING HOW THEY'D TASTE.
HE'S A PSYCHO-PATH.

THEIR TYPES, THEIR CALLS...
...HOW THEY LIVE...

...I'VE NEVER SAID ANY-THING, BUT...
...I LIKE MON-STERS.

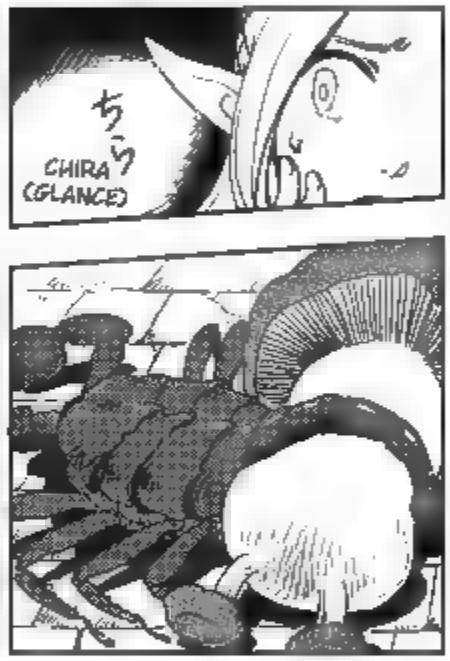
WE'D HAVE TO KEEP MAKING TRIPS BACK FOR WATER.
JIII (STARE)
SHOULDN'T WE DO THIS SOMEWHERE LESS... PUBLIC?

'SCUSE ME!
LEMME THROUGH.
ZAPU (SPLOOSH)

BEGIN-NERS' PLAZA

"ORTHODOX," HE SAYS...
SAKU (SLICE)

SO? HOW DO PEOPLE EAT THESE?
LET'S GO ORTHO-DOX AND BOIL THEM.

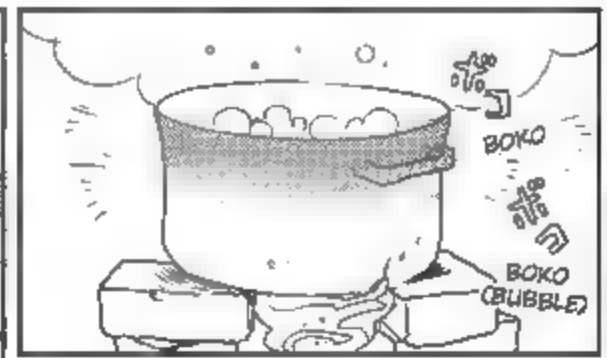

CHIRA (GLANCE)

DIAGONAL SLASHES AND HORIZONTAL TORSO CUTS MAY BE LESS EFFECTIVE ON MUSHROOM ENEMIES.
THIS WAS INFORMA-TIVE.
I SEE.

IT'S EASY TO CUT VERTICALLY, BUT NOT SIDEWAYS.
GIRI (STRAIN)
GIRI

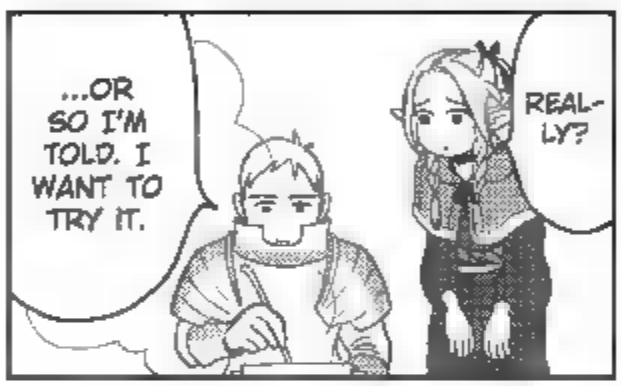
HM!
WHAT !?

H-HANG ON.


BOKO
BOKO (BUBBLE)

BOCHA (SPLASH)
BOCHA

IN WHAT WAY, EXACTLY?
ONCE IT'S SLICED UP, IT LOOKS EDIBLE.


...OR SO I'M TOLD. I WANT TO TRY IT.
REAL-LY?

PAKU (CHOMP)

THIS SCORPION'S VENOM ISN'T HARMFUL IF YOU EAT IT.
POCHA (SPLISH)
CAN YOU EAT SCORPIONS JUST AS THEY ARE?
WON'T IT BE POISON-OUS?

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

BLARG

CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH YOUR METHOD THOUGH.

SCORPION HOT POT, HM?

WHO ARE YOU!?

NU (LOOM)

THE BOOK SAID IT WOULD BE FINE.

IT WILL, HUH?

WELL, TECHNICALLY, YES. IT JUST TASTES NASTY.

...ALWAYS TAKE OFF THE PINCERS, HEAD, LEGS, AND TAIL.

WHEN YOU EAT HUGE SCORPIONS...

DON (CHOP)

THE TAIL WILL GIVE YOU THE RUNS.

...THAT'S A BIT MUCH FOR BEGINNERS.

IF YOU STEW 'EM AND FERMENT 'EM, THEY'RE GOOD BEER SNACKS, BUT...

PI (CLICK)

AND TAKE OUT THE INNARDS AS WELL.

THEY'RE BITTER, AND THEIR TEXTURE ISN'T GOOD.

THE HEAT TRAVELS BETTER, BROTH GETS OUT, AND THE WHOLE DISH IS TASTIER.

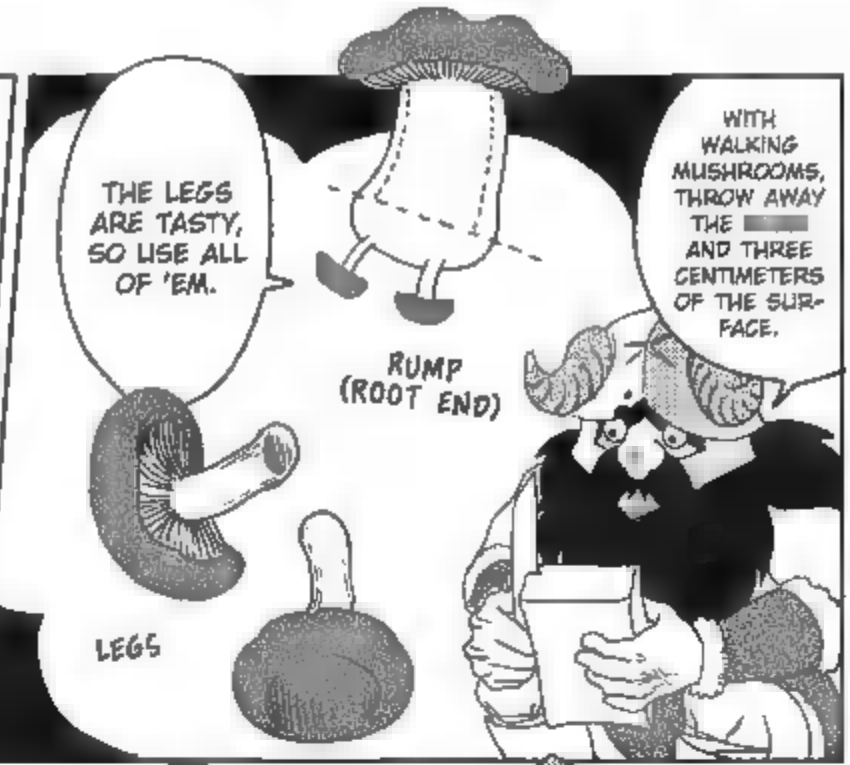
YOU SHOULD CUT SCORES ALONG THE BODY.

EASIER TO EAT TOO.

---Cut

THE LEGS ARE GOOD?
I ALMOST THREW THEM AWAY.
THAT'S RIGHT.

THEY HAVE A NICE, UNIQUE AROMA. SEE?
KUN (SNIFF)
KUN
"FOOT SMELL," HUH?


THE LEGS ARE TASTY, SO USE ALL OF 'EM.
WITH WALKING MUSHROOMS, THROW AWAY THE [redacted] AND THREE CENTIMETERS OF THE SURFACE.
RUMP (ROOT END)
LEGS

LET'S USE MINE.

THIS POT'S TOO SMALL.

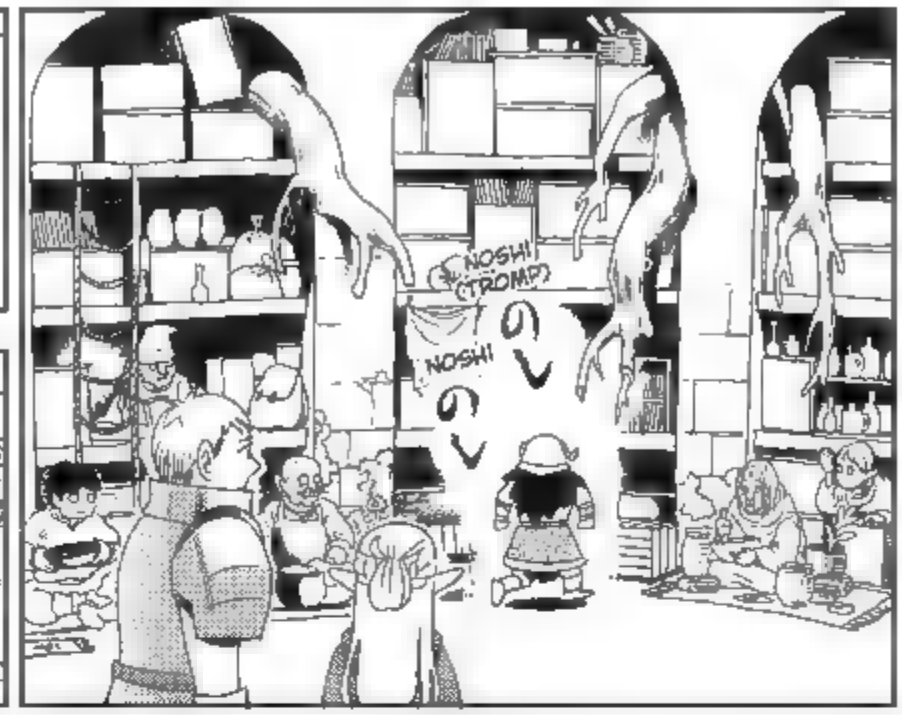
YOU'RE FREAKISHLY WELL PREPARED.
GASHI CLANKO
ガシャ

HMM...

JUST SCORPION AND MUSHROOMS WILL [redacted] A BIT BLAND.

SHURI
SHURI (SKRIT)

ZORI (SCRAPE)
ZORI


NOSHI (TROMP)
NOSHI

NO! NO! I CAN'T, I REALLY CAN'T!
MAR-CILLE.
LISTEN! THIS IS A GRAVE-YARD!

PUT THESE IN.
WAIT! NOT THOSE!!

NOSHI
NOSHI
HE'S BACK.

WHAT ON EARTH IS—
AND WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY!?
MAR-CILLE!
ABOVE YOU!

IT'S [redacted] THIS WAY! IT [redacted] GOOD ENOUGH WITH JUST SCORPION AND WALKING MUSHROOM!
LET'S HAVE IT LIKE THIS, OKAY? OKAY??
BUT, MARCILLE ...

LET'S SAY MON-STERS ARE OKAY.
BUT PLANTS THAT PUT DOWN ROOTS ARE OUT! FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS!

URK.

NETO (GLORP)

ABOVE ME?

!!!

FIRE SPELL ...
OH... THAT WON'T WORK. I CAN'T CHANT.
NICHA (SHLLICIO)

GOBOBO (BURBLE)
RATS.
DON'T MOVE, MAR-CILLE!
RIGHT OVER MY FACE.

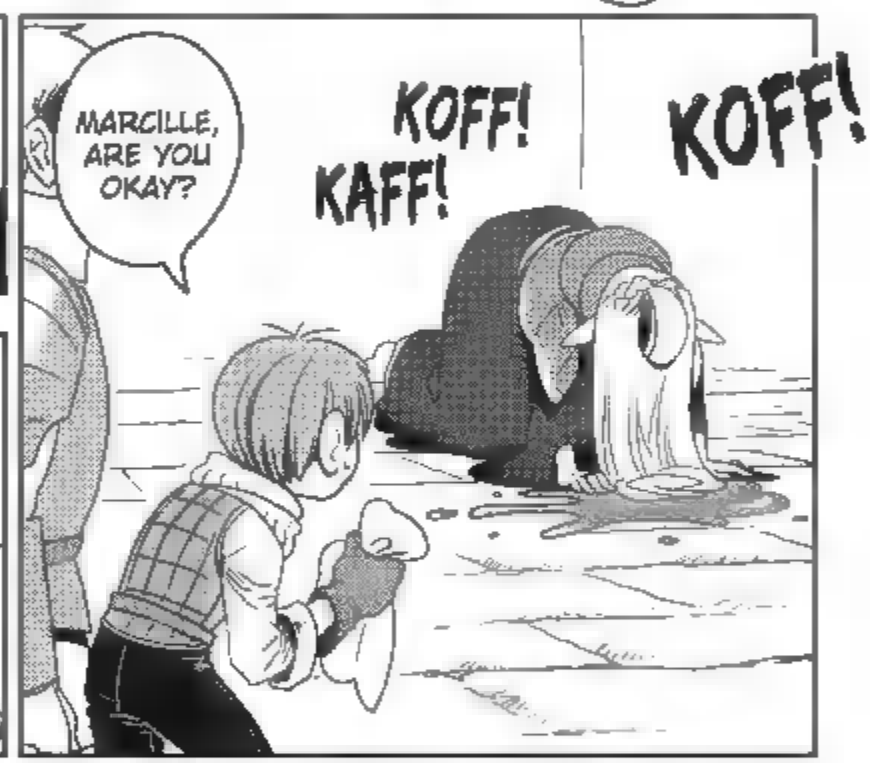
A SLIME!

DERO (BLORP)
PWAH!

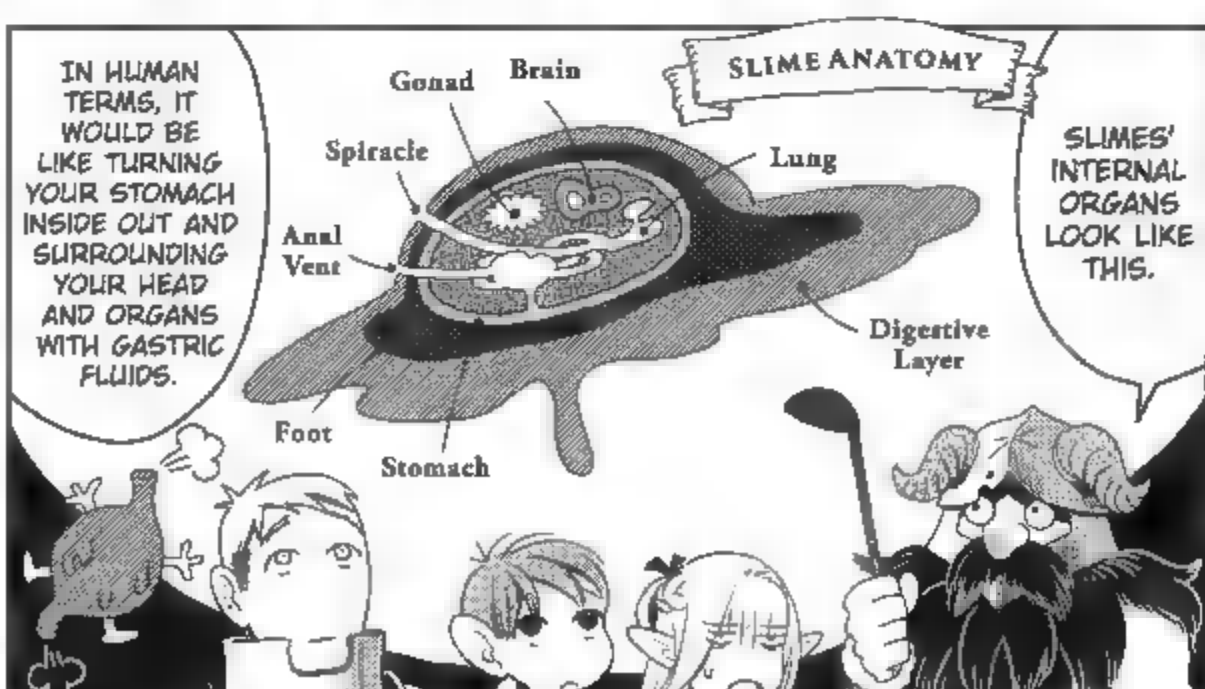
MUNZU (PINCH)
SAKU (SLICE)

SFX: GOBOBO (BURBLE)
2 YRS AGO
UGH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE FIRST THING THAT KILLED ME WAS A SLIME.
FIRE!
FIRE!
HEY, A LIFE REVIEW.

HAAH!
HFF!
HERE. BLOW.
I'M FINE. I GOT SOME UP MY NOSE THOUGH.


MARCILLE, ARE YOU OKAY?
KOFF!
KAFF!
KOFF!

YOU BEAT A SLIME WITH A KNIFE?
IT'S EASY IF YOU KNOW THEIR MAKE-UP.

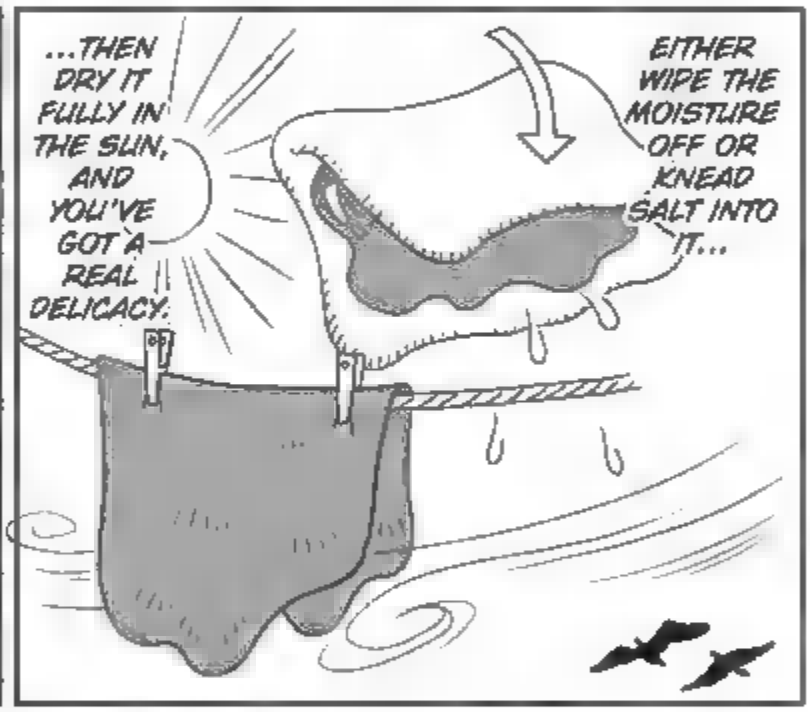

SLIME ANATOMY
Gonad
Brain
Spiracle
Lung
Anal Vent
Digestive Layer
Foot
Stomach
IN HUMAN TERMS, IT WOULD BE LIKE TURNING YOUR STOMACH INSIDE OUT AND SURROUNDING YOUR HEAD AND ORGANS WITH GASTRIC FLUIDS.
SLIMES' INTERNAL ORGANS LOOK LIKE THIS.

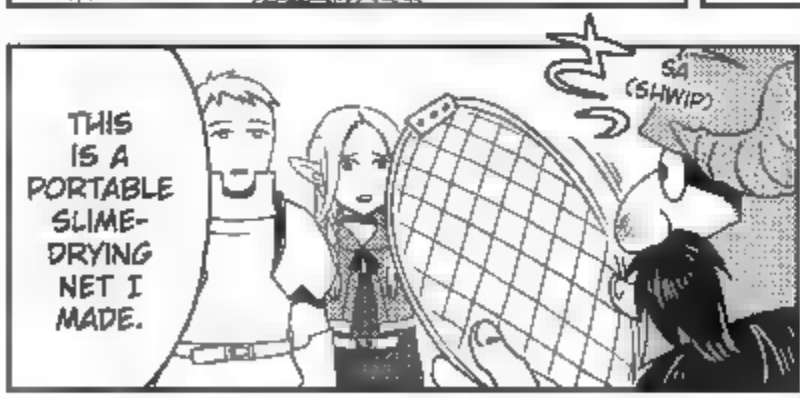
THEY LOOK AMORPHOUS, BUT ACTUALLY...
...THEY'RE MORE UNIFORM THAN YOUR AVERAGE HUMAN.

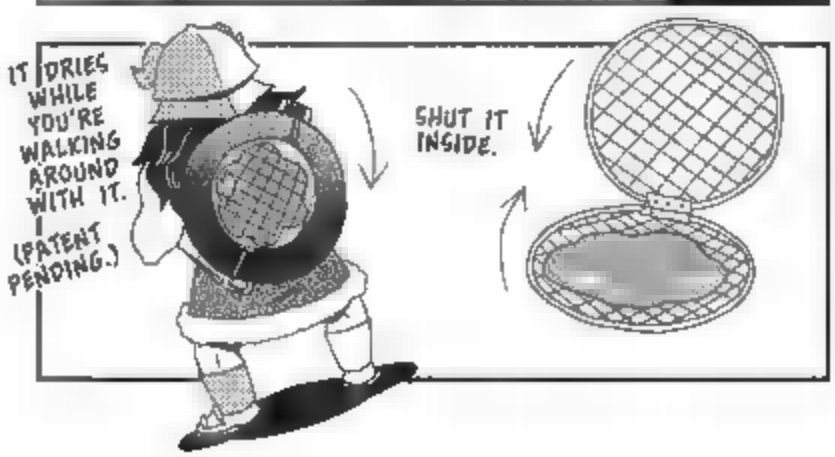
...WASH IT WELL IN HOT WATER AND A LITTLE CITRUS JUICE.
IT'S REALLY NOT EDIBLE AS IT IS NOW, BUT...
DOBOBO (POUR)

THEY SENSE WHEN THEIR PREY'S EXHALED AND LEAP AT THEM.
THAT MEANS YELLING AND SHOUTING MAKES YOU AN EASIER TARGET.

SPRING-TIME IN A FAMOUS DRIED SLIME PRO-DUCTION AREA


...THEN DRY IT FULLY IN THE SUN, AND YOU'VE GOT A REAL DELICACY.
EITHER WIPE THE MOISTURE OFF OR KNEAD SALT INTO IT...


THIS IS A PORTABLE SLIME-DRYING NET I MADE.
SA (SHWIP)


IT DRIES WHILE YOU'RE WALKING AROUND WITH IT. (PATENT PENDING.)
SHUT IT INSIDE.

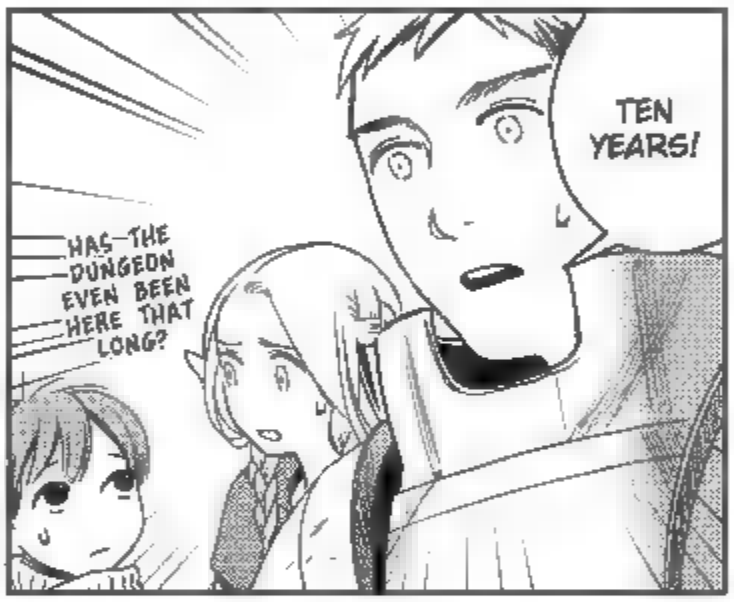
IT'S NOT REALLY A FOOD YOU CAN JUST SNACK ON IN THE DUNGEON.
IT TAKES TIME TO DRY IT TOO.
HOW-EVER, IF POSSI-BLE, IT'S BETTER TO STARVE IT FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.
NUTO (OOZE)

I DON'T MIND.
BUT IT'S A DELICACY, ISN'T IT?
YOUR INTEREST MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
TON (CHOP)
TON
I'VE RESEARCHED MONSTER COOKING IN THIS DUNGEON FOR OVER A DECADE.

...I HAVE SOME FINISHED STUFF RIGHT HERE.
LET'S PUT THIS IN TODAY.

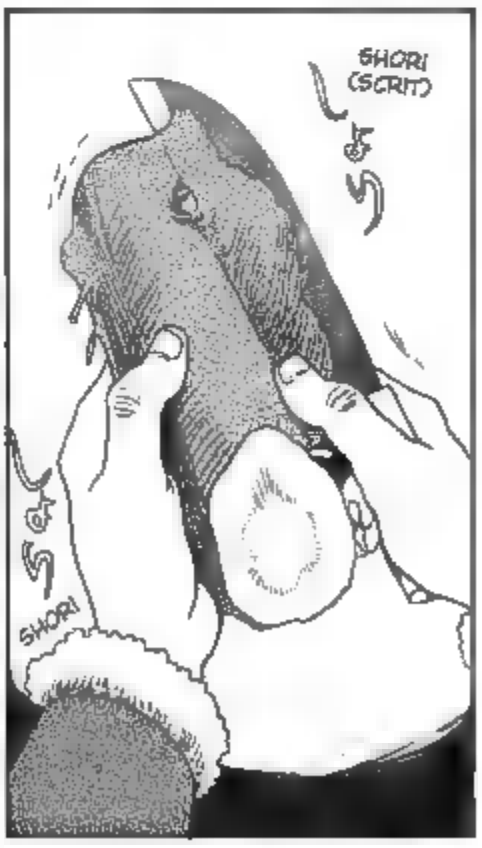
IT TAKES TIME FOR IT TO BE READY, BUT...
GOGO (RUSTLE)

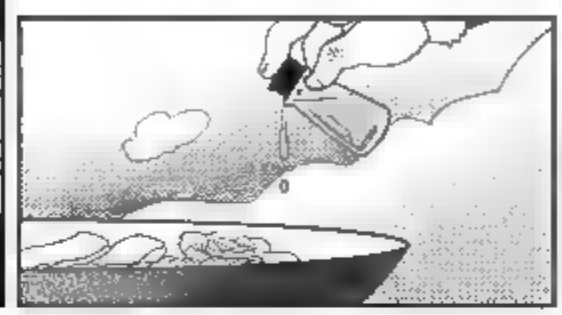
ALL RIGHT, SIT TIGHT A MINUTE.
IT'LL BE READY SOON.

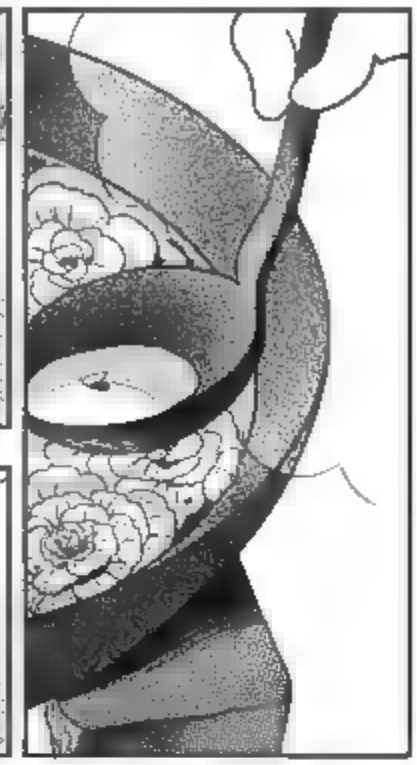

TEN YEARS!
HAS THE DUNGEON EVEN BEEN HERE THAT LONG?

ZARAA (TUMBLE)

TON
TON


SHORI (SCRIT)
SHORI

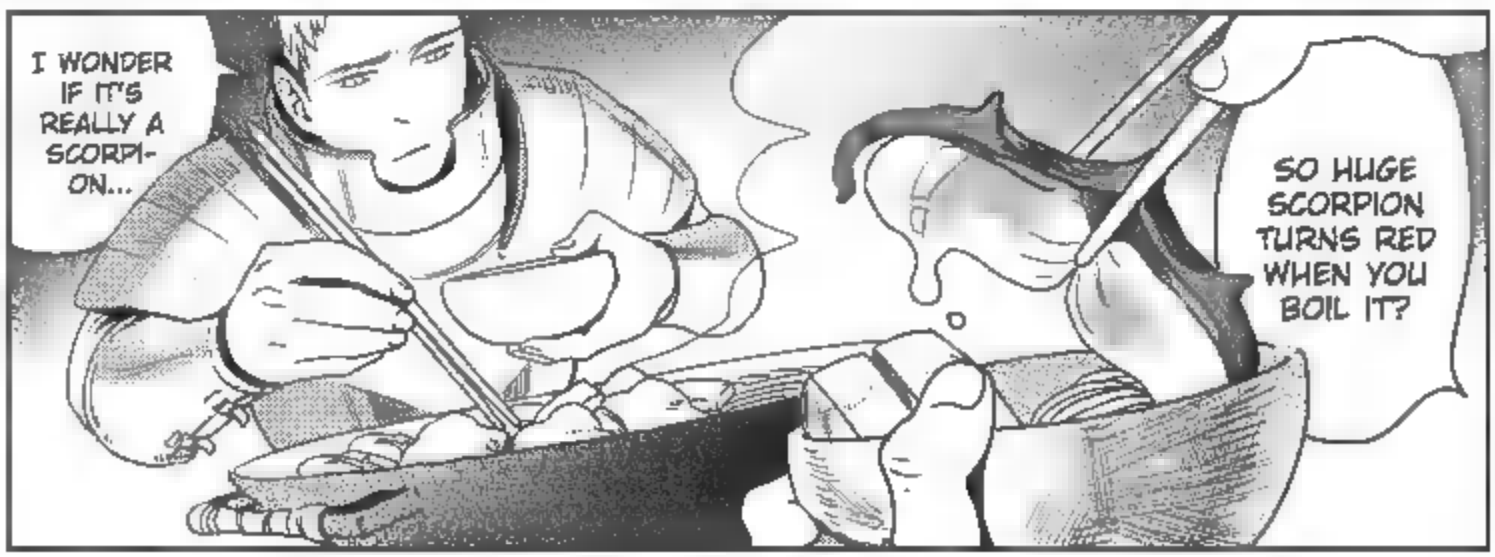




Huge Scorpion and Walking Mushroom Hot Pot

Ingredients (Serves 3~4)

Huge scorpion	1
Walking mushroom	1
Mushroom feet	2
Seaweed (arctic moss, star jelly)	To taste
Invertatoes	About 5 medium
Dried slime	As much as you like
Water	To taste



YOU'RE RIGHT.
HORO (FLAKE)

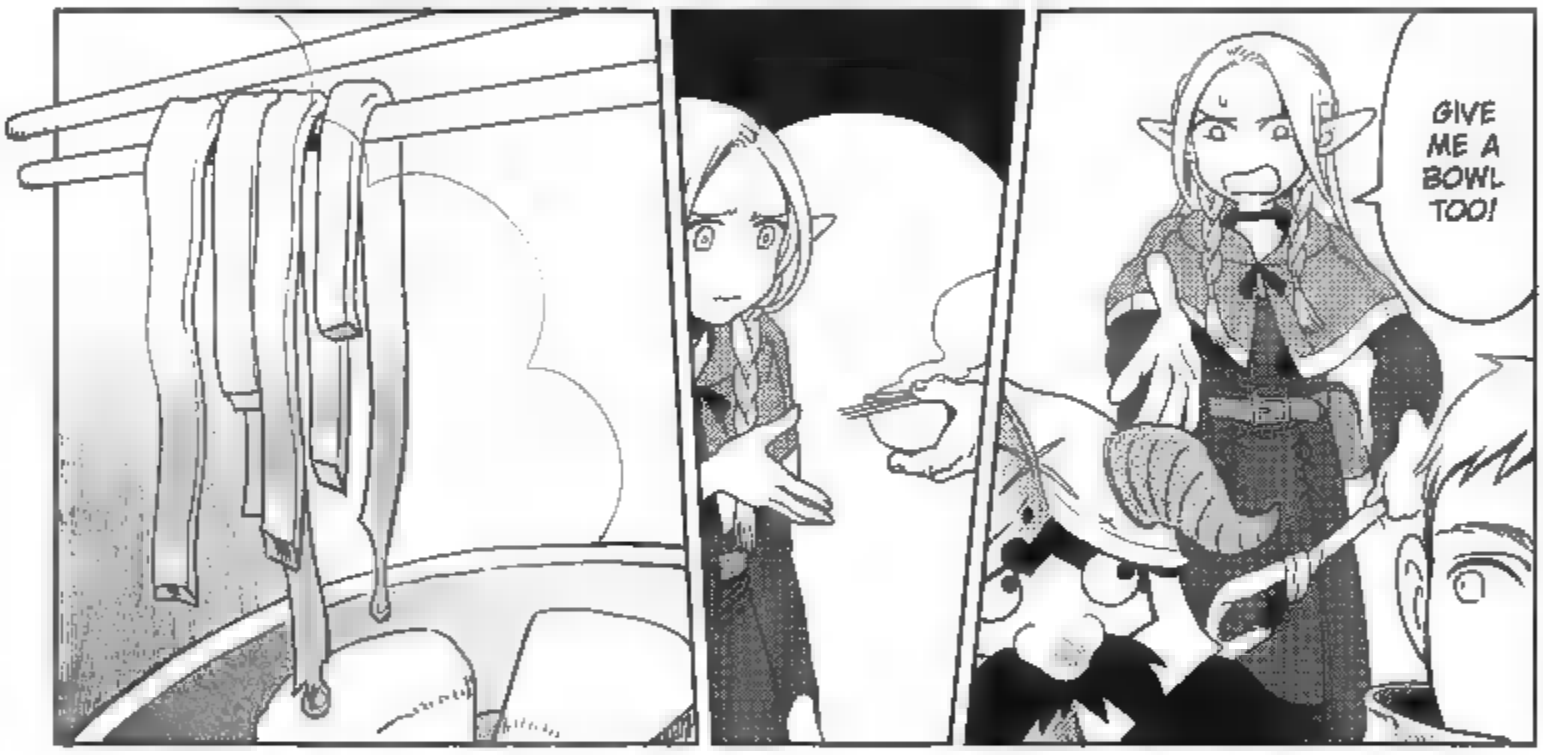
HEATING THE FLESH SHRINKS IT DOWN A BIT.
IT'LL COME OUT OF THE SHELL REAL EASY.

SEEING IT IS A LOT DIFFERENT FROM READING ABOUT IT.
IT SMELLS PRETTY GOOD.

IT'S GOOD!
AIN'T IT THOUGH!

IT SURE DOES, DOESN'T IT?
THE FLAVOR CHANGES SO MUCH DEPENDING ON HOW IT'S COOKED.

ぐぅ
GUUU (RUMBLE)
ぐぅ
GUUU


GIVE ME A BOWL TOO!

DRIED SLIME INNARDS.
WHAT'S THIS?

GAN (SHOCK)
GAN
THEY'RE GOOD IF YOU SOAK 'EM IN FRUIT JUICE TOO.
THEY'RE TASTY ANY WAY YOU EAT 'EM.
SO THIS IS HOW YOU EAT SLIMES...

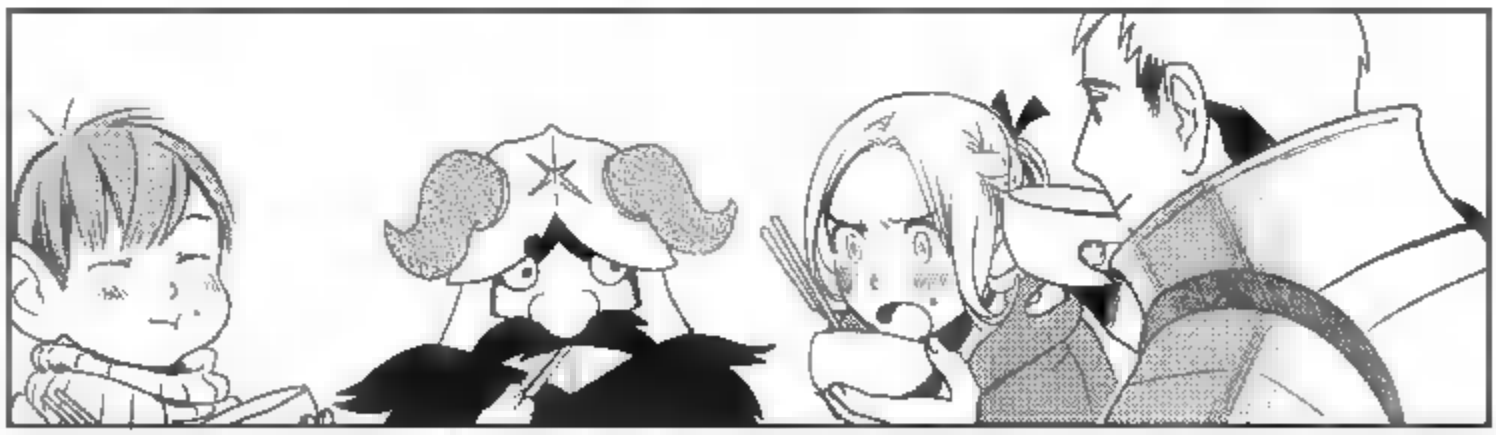
THEY'RE NOT REALLY ROOTS. THEY'RE THE STEMS OF DUNGEON PLANTS THAT GROW UPSIDE DOWN.
THESE TREE ROOTS ARE NICE AND STARCHY.

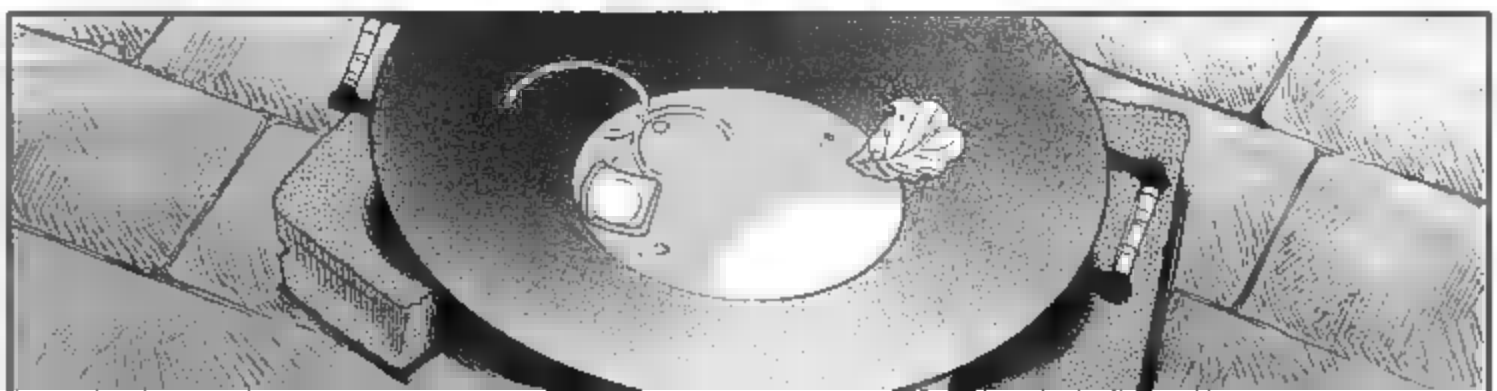
WOW!
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!

WE'RE IN THE DUN-GEON ALL THE TIME, BUT I HAD NO IDEA ANY OF THIS WAS HERE.

IT'S PLAIN OLD ALGAE.
THAT STUFF SPROUTS ANYWHERE MOIST.

IS IT ANOTHER DUNGEON PLANT?
THIS ALGAE IS SOFT AND YUMMY TOO.





MAN, I'M STUFFED...
WHEW.
KARAAN (CLATTER)

THE MAGIC USER IS MARCILLE...
I'M LAIOS.
...AND THAT'S CHILCHUCK, OUR PICKLOCK.

IT MEANS "SEEKER" IN DWARFISH.
MY NAME'S SENSHI.

BY THE WAY...
...WE SKIPPED OUR INTRODUCTIONS.

WHAT KIND WAS IT?
A MONSTER!
A DRAGON. ONE WITH BRIGHT-RED SCALES.

YOU SEEM TO BE JOURNEYING FOR A REASON...
HM. YES.

WE WANT TO SAVE HER BEFORE SHE'S DIGESTED.
A MONSTER ATE ONE OF OUR COMPANIONS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DUNGEON.

WELL, I HOPE SO, BUT...
.....

THE RED DRAGON, HM!?
BRIGHT-RED SCALES...
THE DEPTHS...
ITS DIGESTION SHOULD BE FAR SLOWER THAN OTHER MONSTERS'.
I HEAR DRAGONS SLEEP MOST OF THE TIME TO MAINTAIN THOSE HUGE BODIES.

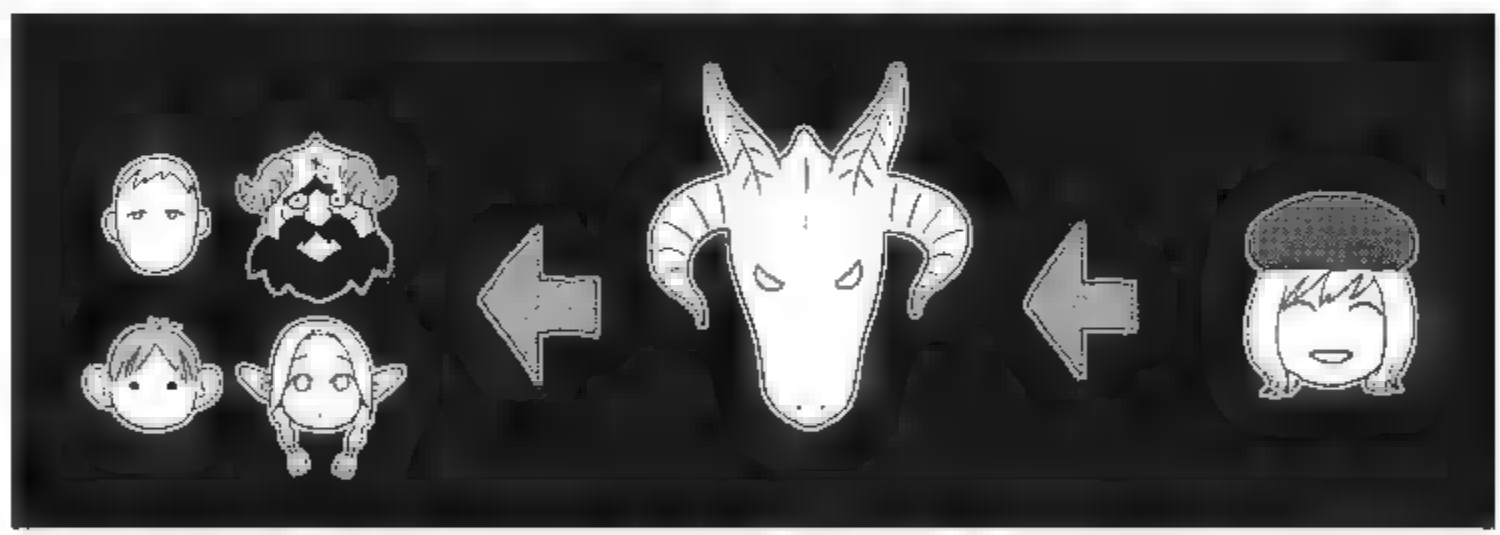
IS THAT RIGHT! SAY, THANKS!
THAT'S OUR LINE.

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ALONG.
YOU'D BE A BIG HELP TO US TOO.

LISTEN, COULD I JOIN YOU?
!

COOKING THE RED DRAGON'S BEEN A DREAM OF MINE FOR YEARS!

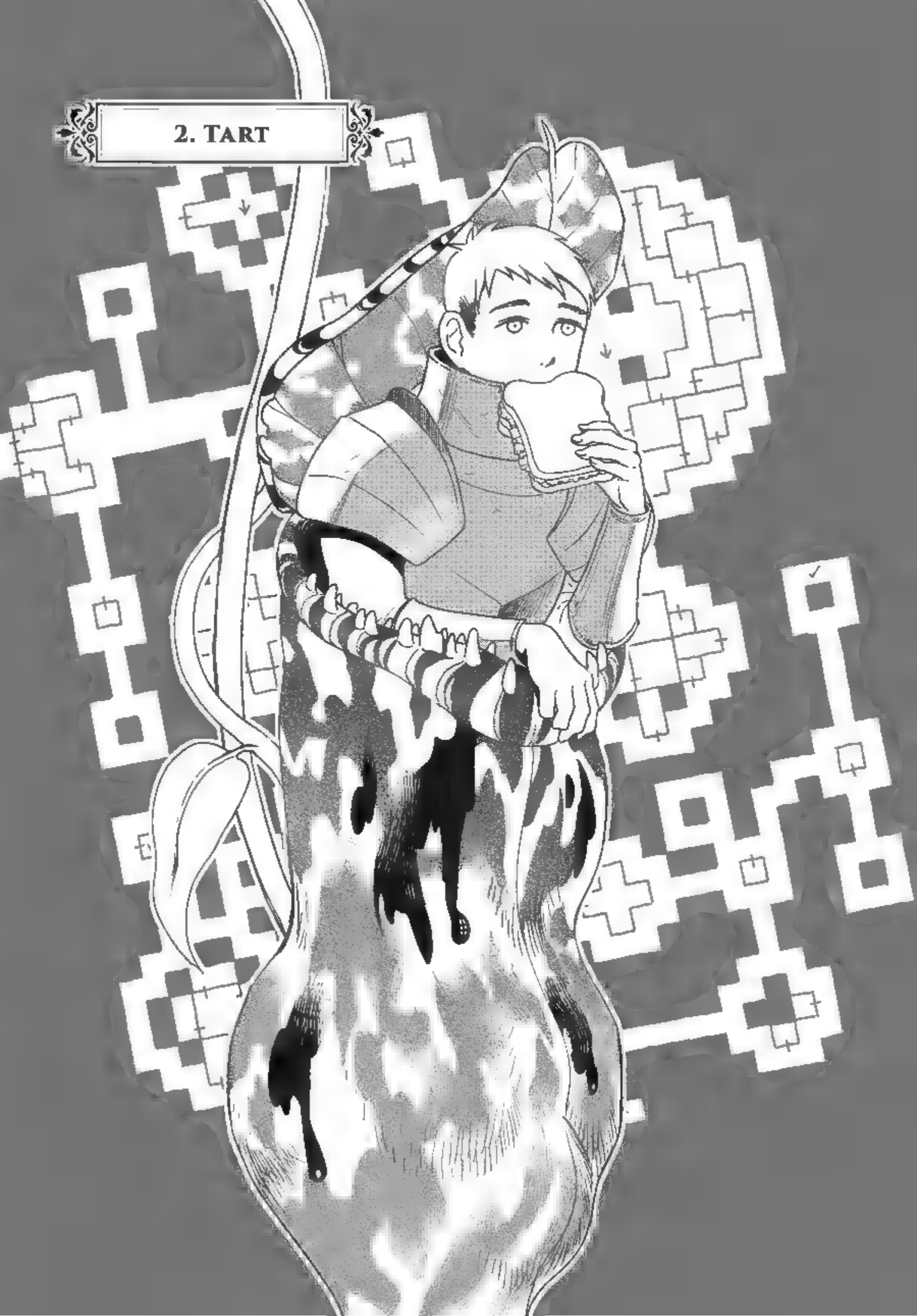
SHABU-SHABU'S A GOOD ONE TOO.
OR IF IT HAS EGGS, THERE'S MOTHER-AND-CHILD RICE BOWLS...
.....
SHOULD I GO WITH CLASSIC STEAKS?
OR WOULD GROUND STEAK BE BETTER?
THE RED DRAGON...



...REALLY OKAY TO EAT THAT?
IS IT...

DUN-GEON FOOD.
AFTER ALL...
THE THOUGHT DID CROSS OUR MINDS...
...BUT NOBODY SAID ANY-THING.
EATING IS, QUITE SIMPLY, THE EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE OF THE LIVING.
...IT'S EAT OR BE EATEN.
THERE'S NO HIER-ARCHY IN-VOLVED.
DUN-GEON FOOD.
AH, DUNGEON FOOD.
CHAPTER 1: THE END

2. Tart



UNLIKE THE FIRST UNDER-GROUND FLOOR, THE VILLAGE GRAVEYARD...
...ABNORMAL SIGHTS BECOME COMMON DOWN HERE.
WATCH YOUR STEP.

BRANCH TO THE FACE...
IT'S ALWAYS SO HARD TO WALK HERE.

BELOW GROUND, 2F
BASHIN (THWAP)
GHK!

I'VE ALWAYS WON-DERED...

THESE TREES ARE SO TALL, SO WHY DON'T THEY STICK OUT ABOVE-GROUND?

THE SCHOLARS SAY THAT THIS IS THE TOWER OF THE GOLDEN CASTLE THAT SLUMBERS DEEP IN THE EARTH.

VILLAGE

1F – SUBTERRANEAN GRAVEYARD

WE ARE HERE

THE DUNGEON'S THE PRODUCT OF A CURSE, AFTER ALL.

MAYBE THE SPACE IS WARPED.

MARCILLE, ARE YOU OKAY?

I TRIPPED ON A GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

GACK!

LET'S FIND A CAMP-SITE AND REST EARLY TODAY.

WE'VE WALKED A LONG WAY.
YOU MUST BE TIRED.

SOUP...
GUU (GURGLE)

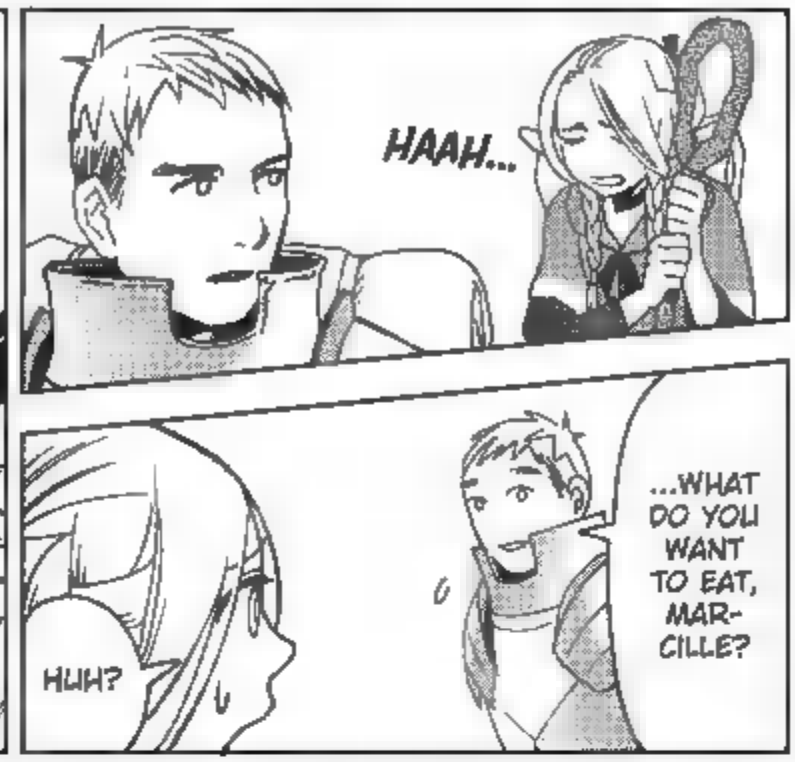
HA HA HA!
AND WE GOT BURNED TRYING TO MAKE PORK SOUP.

WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN A HOLLOW TREE AROUND HERE A LONG TIME AGO, DIDN'T WE?
WE SURE DID.

AAAH.
RIGHT. LET'S HUNT A MONSTER THAT LOOKS DINNER WORTHY.

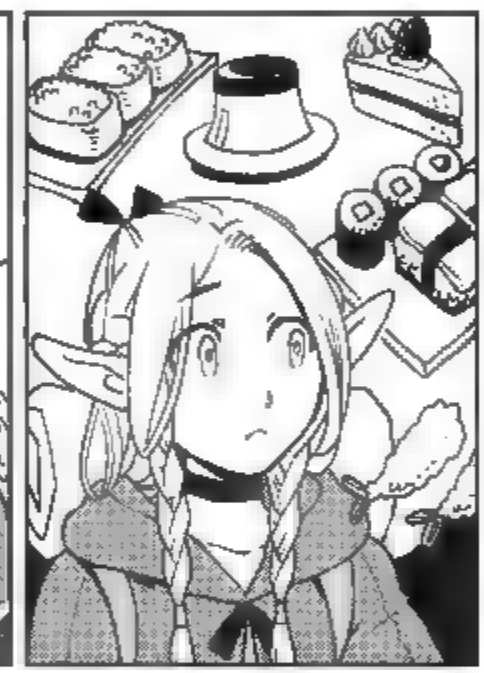
HUNGRY?
I'VE GOT SOME LEFTOVER SCORPION BROTH FROM LUNCH.
NO THANKS.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO FULFILL ANY REQUEST.
LAIOS... SO YOU SAY, BUT...


HAAH...
HUH?
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT, MAR-CILLE?

HAAH...

SA (SHP)
YOU STILL MEAN EATING MONSTERS, RIGHT?



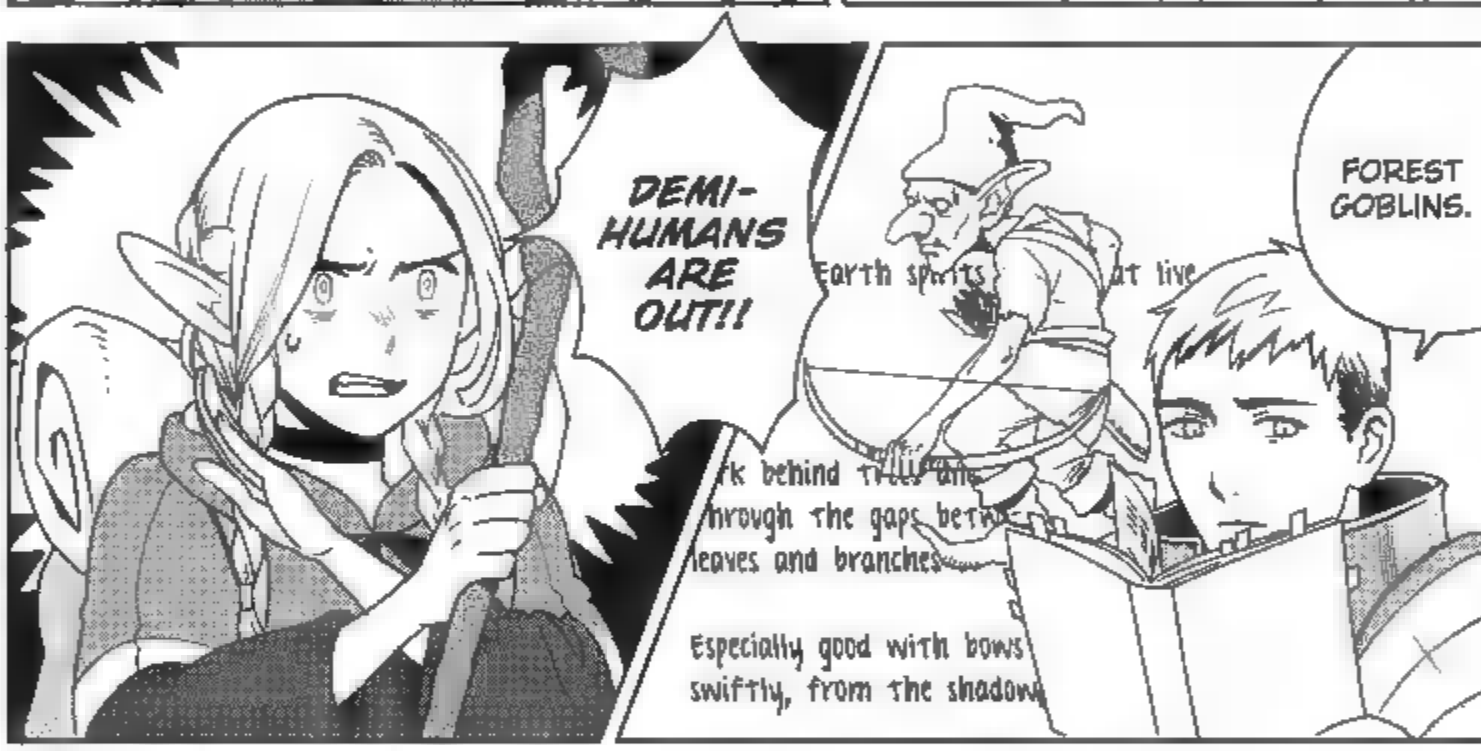
LET'S SEE...
GOSO. (RUMMAGE)

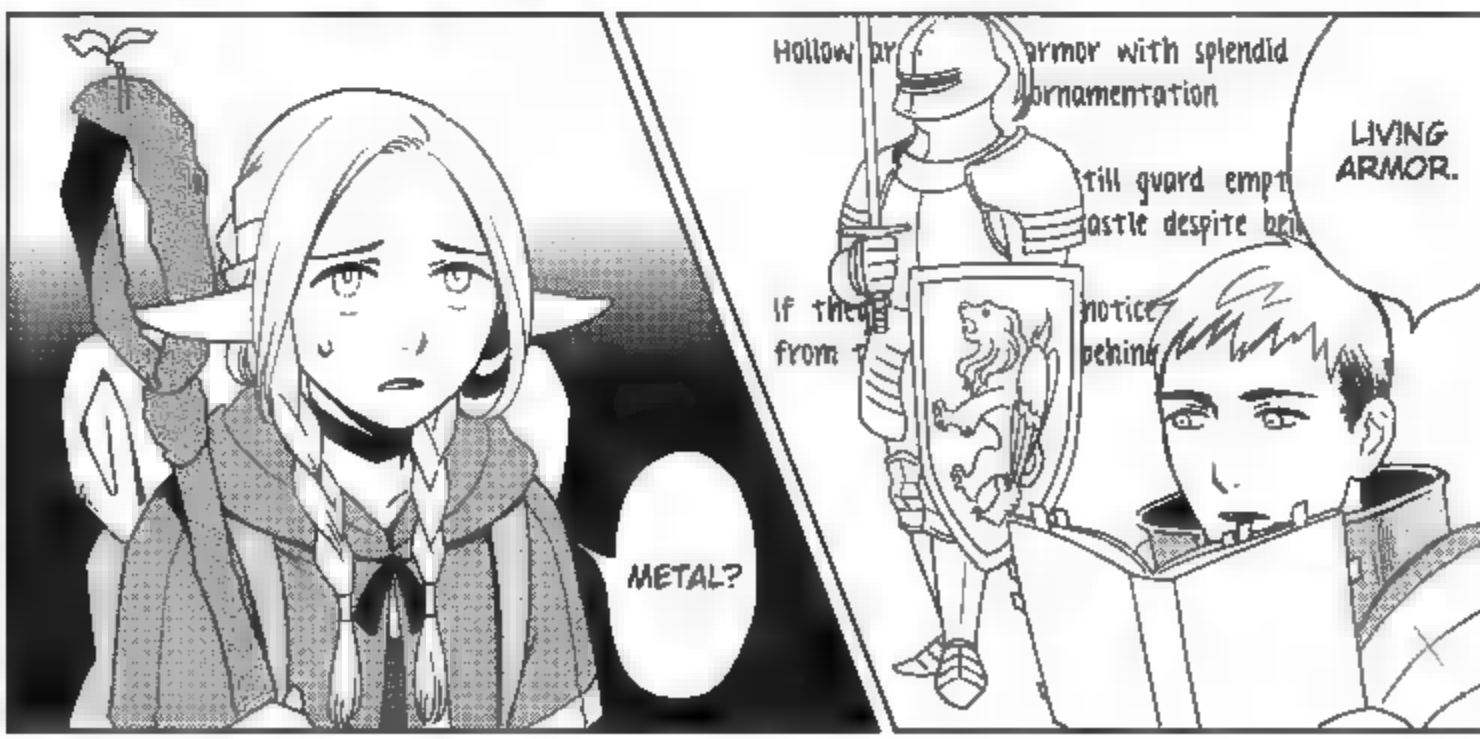
PERA (FLIP)

WHAT SORT OF MON-STERS ARE AROUND HERE?

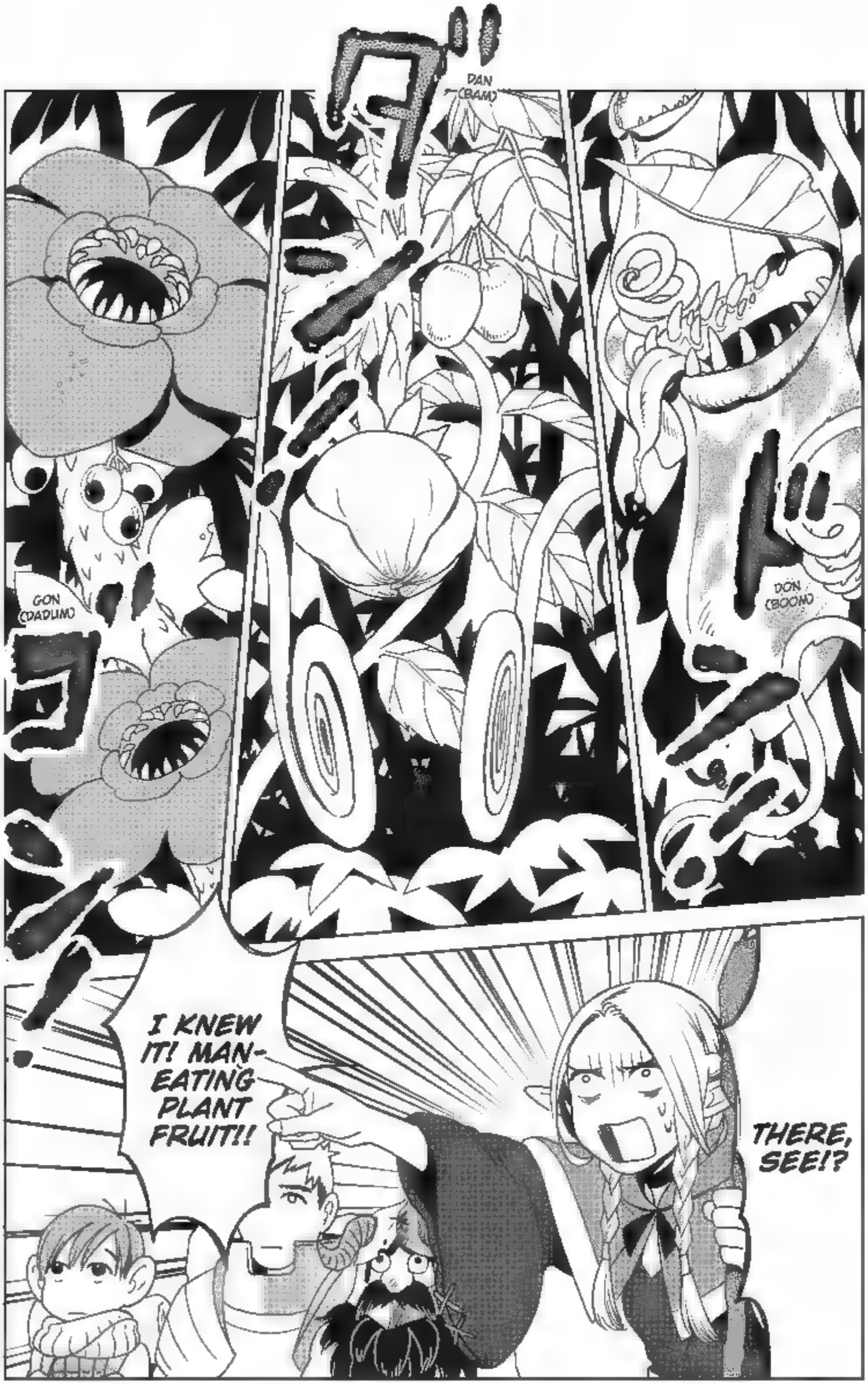
ANY-THING'S FINE.
AS LONG AS IT'S EDIBLE.

NOT IF WE WANT TO KEEP GOING!
NO! NOTHING UNSANITARY!
Big Bat
Enormous vampire
rey with its
ropping it, blood
Giant Rat
nout like a pig's
n be violent and
ressive when ar
BIG BATS.
GIANT RATS.


DEMI-HUMANS ARE OUT!!
Earth spirits
at live
k behind trees and
hrough the gaps betw
leaves and branches
Especially good with bows
swiftly, from the shadow
FOREST GOBLINS.


METAL?
Hollow ar
armor with splendid
ornamentation
till guard empt
astle despite bei
If the
notice
from t
behind
LIVING ARMOR.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING MORE, YOU KNOW, NORMAL?
LIKE BIRDS! OR FRUIT!
HUH?
AHHH, I KNOW THIS TYPE.
THEY SAY ANY-THING'S FINE...
...BUT THEN THEY NITPICK ALL OUR SUGGES-TIONS.
I REALLY DON'T THINK I'M BEING THAT PICKY!!
ALTHOUGH, THIS IS THE DUNGEON, SO WE MIGHT MEET A MONSTER DUCK WITH A MAN-EATING LEEK.
LET'S JUST TRY TO ENJOY OURSELVES, OKAY?
I CAN'T BE THAT OPTIMIS-TIC...
DUCKS DON'T COME ALONG CARRYING LEEKS ON THEIR BACKS, YOU KNOW.
I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
MATAGI
THERE ARE SOME HERE, BUT THEY WON'T ATTACK US.
IF WE'RE HUNTING THEM, WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR IT.
GU (WHIP)
WHAT...?
REALLY?
NO.
THERE ARE LOTS OF NUTS AND FRUITS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.


DAN (BAM)
GON (DADUM)
DON (BOOM)
I KNEW IT! MAN-EATING PLANT FRUIT!!
THERE, SEE!?

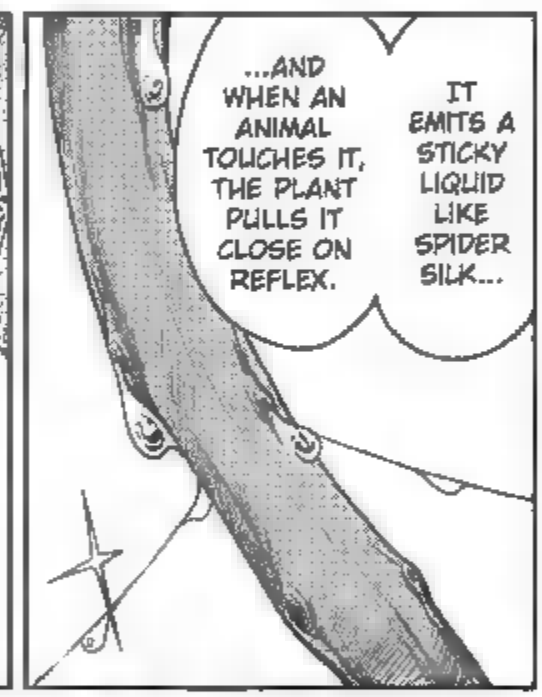
AS A RULE, IT GROWS WILD ALONG ANIMAL PATHS.

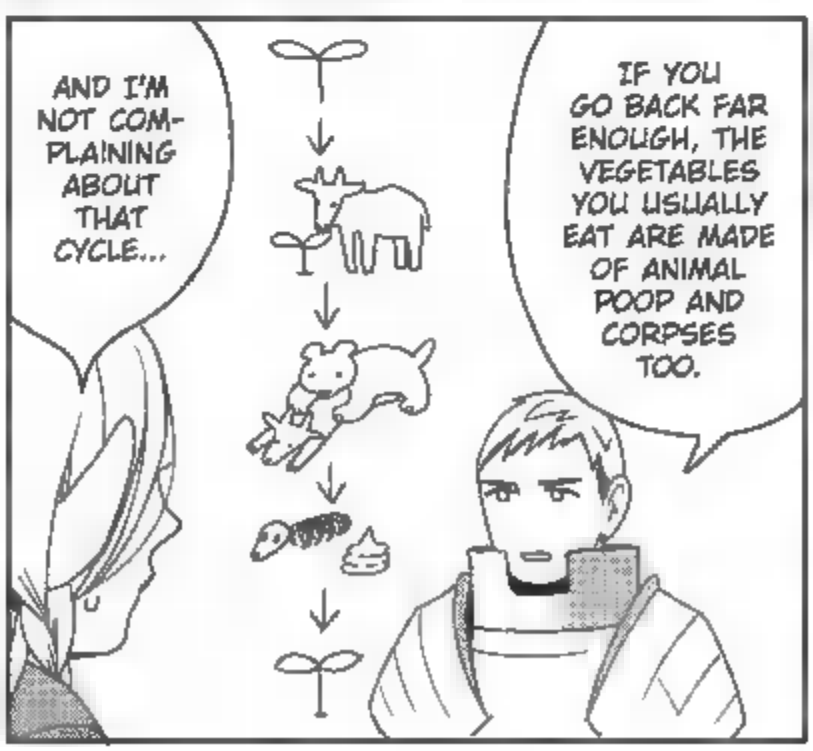
TAKE THAT FLOWER, FOR EXAMPLE.
ITS OFFICIAL NAME IS BARASELIA.

"MAN-EATING PLANT" IS THE COMMON NAME.
MARCILLE.
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG.

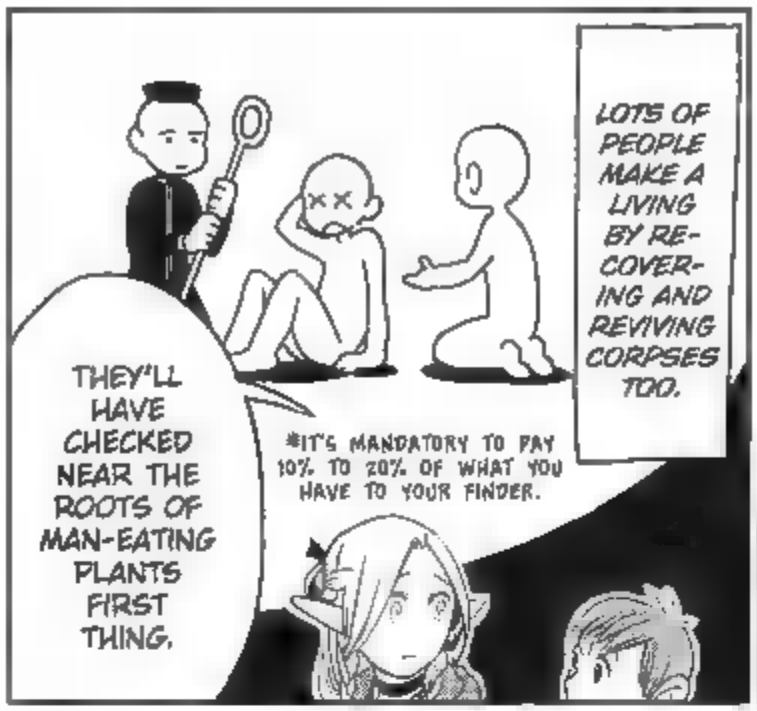
IT DOESN'T EAT THEM EITHER.
IT DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY TARGET PEOPLE.

IT'S A PLANT THAT MAKES ITS OWN COMPOST.
IT WRAPS AROUND THINGS THAT MOVE, BUT IT CAN'T DIGEST THEM.


...AND WHEN AN ANIMAL TOUCHES IT, THE PLANT PULLS IT CLOSE ON REFLEX.
IT EMITS A STICKY LIQUID LIKE SPIDER SILK...


AND I'M NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THAT CYCLE...
IF YOU GO BACK FAR ENOUGH, THE VEGETABLES YOU USUALLY EAT ARE MADE OF ANIMAL POOP AND CORPSES TOO.

NOT THAT WE'RE UNDER A CHERRY TREE, BUT...
BUT THEY DO USE PEOPLE FOR NUTRIENTS SOMETIMES.


THEY'LL HAVE CHECKED NEAR THE ROOTS OF MAN-EATING PLANTS FIRST THING.
*IT'S MANDATORY TO PAY 10% TO 20% OF WHAT YOU HAVE TO YOUR FINDER.
LOTS OF PEOPLE MAKE A LIVING BY RE-COVERING AND REVIVING CORPSES TOO.

IF CORPSES LIE AROUND HERE, PEOPLE NOTICE THEM FAST.
WE'RE STILL JUST TWO FLOORS UNDER-GROUND.
DON'T WORRY.

THAT YELLOW THING ON THE OTHER SIDE ISN'T RIPE YET.
ONE AT THE ROOT THERE.
I SEE.
TWO OVER THERE.

IT'S DIFFERENT ■ THE DEPTHS, BUT NOBODY BECOMES MONSTER CHOW UP HERE.
YOU THINK?

ば
BA (WHP)
OUT OF THE WAY!

BAAA...

PICKING THEM DISCREETLY WOULD BE NIGH IMPOS-SIBLE.
YEP. WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL OF THEM AT ONCE.
PACHI (SMACK)
AY-
HUH?
STOP, YOU FOOL!

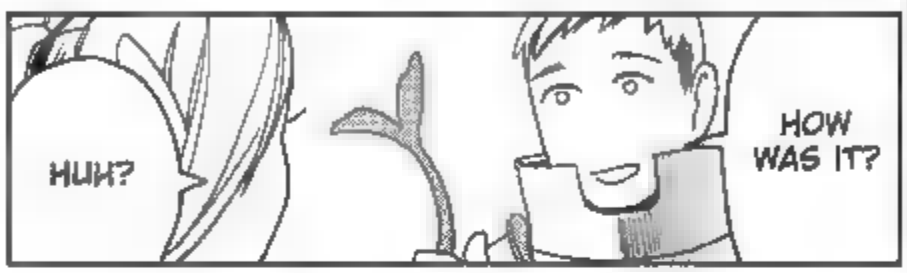
WHAT—?
GYUCINCH
GYURURU (WRAP)
WHA ...!?
WERE YOU PLANNING TO BLOW ALL THE FRUIT AWAY WITH MAGIC TOO?
AAAUGH!!
TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU'LL EAT.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME!
THAT'S AN IRON-CLAD RULE.

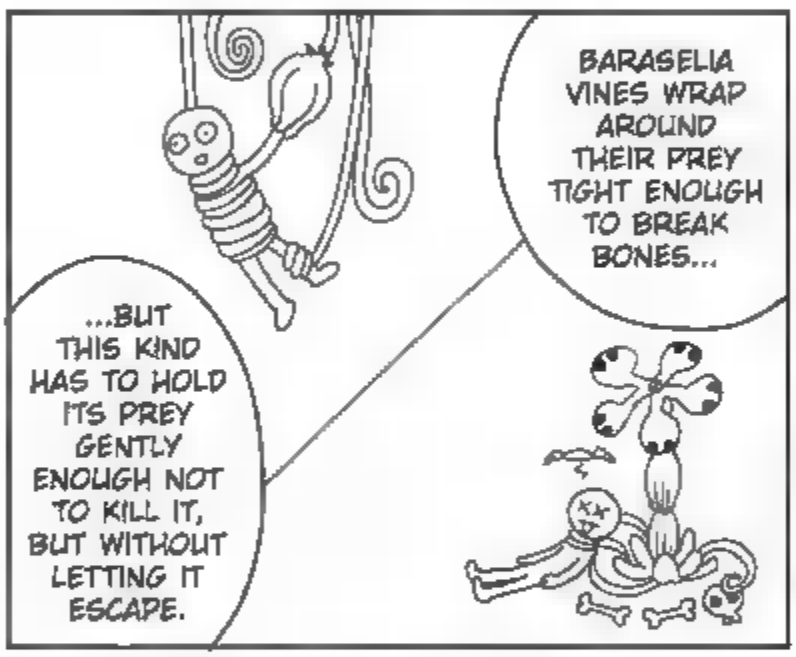
どん
DON (BUMP)
ジタ
JITA (KICK)
NO! NO, NO!
LET GO—
バタ
BATA (FLAIL)
ミシ
MISHI (CREAK)
NH!
ばばばばば
どど
DOCHA (SPLOOSH)
ちち
SURU (SLIDE)
ズル

THE ROOT!
PLANT MON-STERS HAVE MANY ARMS.
IF I FIGHT EACH OF THEM SEPARATELY, WE'LL BE HERE ALL DAY.
THERE'S JUST ONE PLACE TO CUT THEM.
DON'T MOVE AROUND TOO MUCH, MARCILLE.

OUCH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TH-THANKS, LAIOS...

BARA
BARA (PLOP)
GOSU (WHUNK)


HUH?
HOW WAS IT?

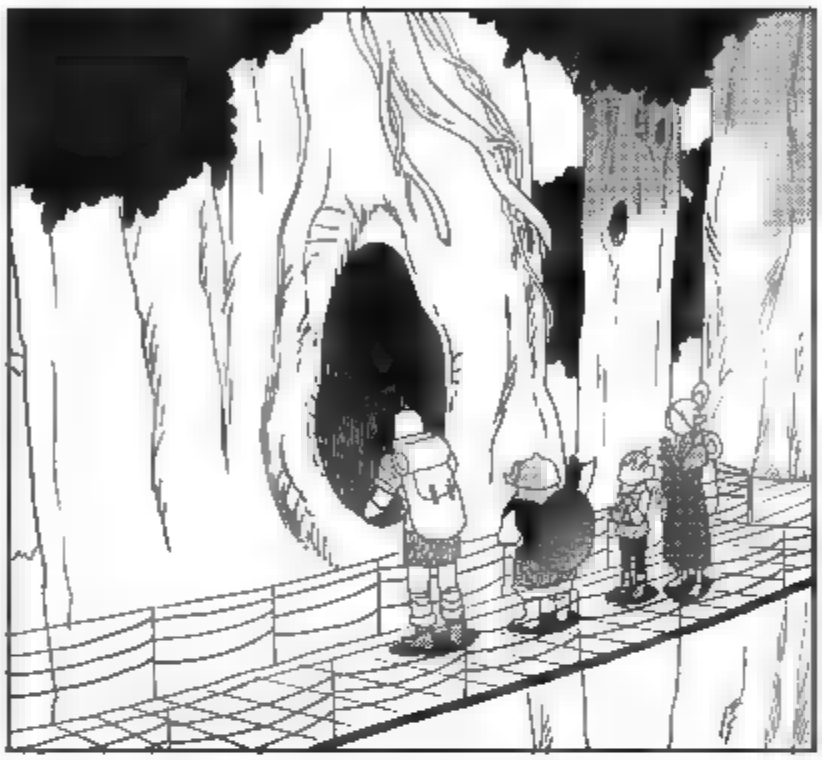

BARASELIA VINES WRAP AROUND THEIR PREY TIGHT ENOUGH TO BREAK BONES...
...BUT THIS KIND HAS TO HOLD ITS PREY GENTLY ENOUGH NOT TO KILL IT, BUT WITHOUT LETTING IT ESCAPE.

IT'S A PARASITICAL PREDATOR THAT PLANTS ITS SEEDS UNDER THE SKIN OF OTHER CREA-TURES.
THIS KIND IS CALLED A SHADOW-TAIL.
SEEDS
PREY'S SKIN
THEY GROW RIGHT THERE.

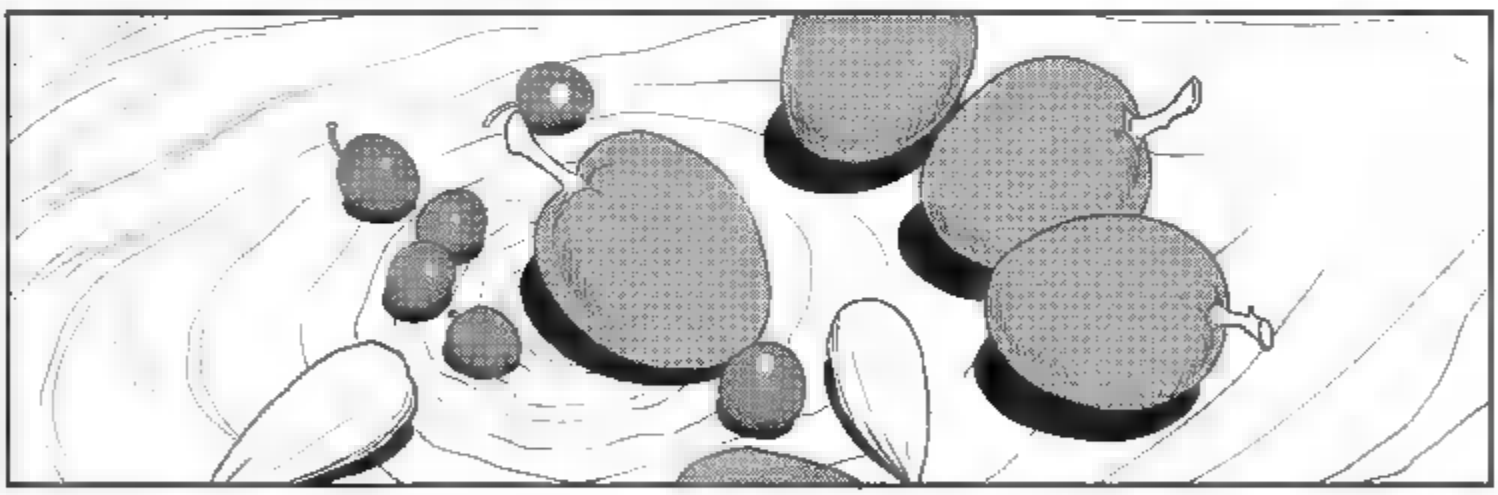
I IMAGINE IT MUST FEEL REALLY GOOD.
HOW WAS IT?

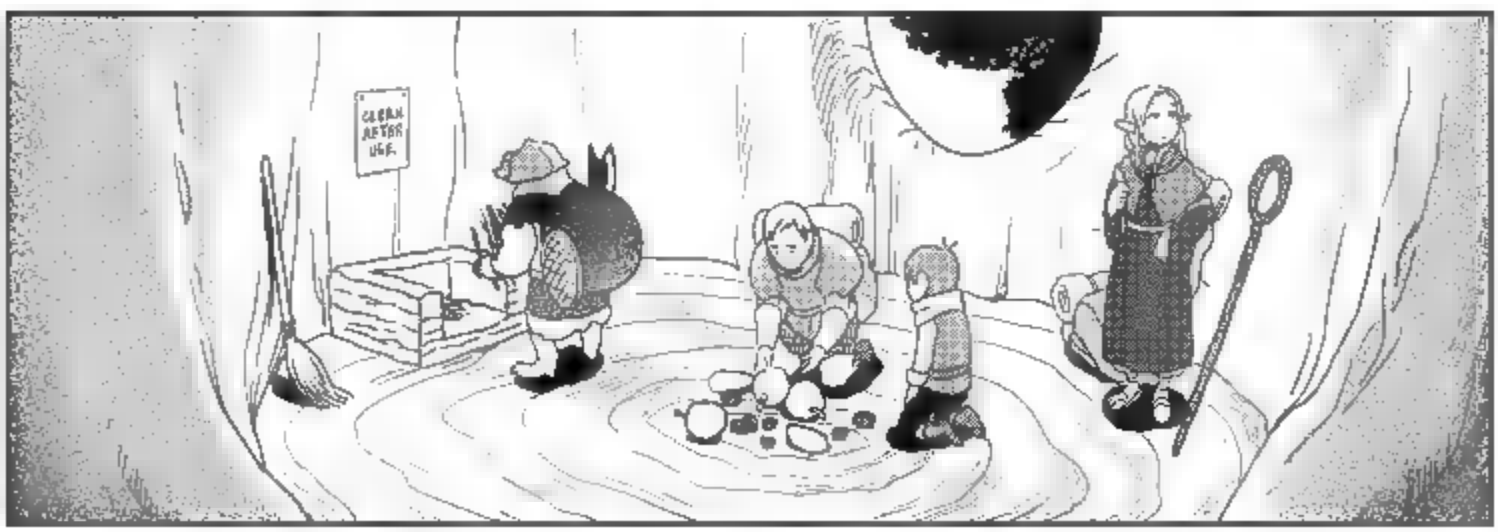
THE WAY THEY WRAP AROUND YOU...
THAT DELICATE BALANCE, WHERE YOU CAN'T MOVE BUT ITS GRIP ISN'T UNCOM-FORT-ABLE...

IS THIS ABOUT ENOUGH?



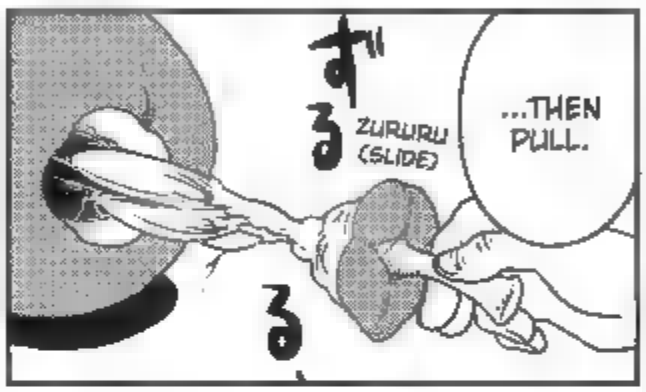
I MADE HER MAD AGAIN.
EVEN I THOUGHT THAT WAS PUSHING IT.




CLEAN AFTER USE.

STEAM 'EM LIGHTLY FIRST.

KFF! KFF!


ZURURU (SLIDE)
...THEN PULL.

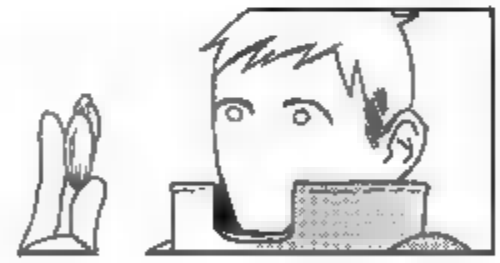
THE SEEDS COME RIGHT OUT THAT WAY.
OOOH!

...TWIST IT A BIT...

KURU (TURN)
CUT AROUND THE STEM...

GOOO (FWOOM)
AAUGH!

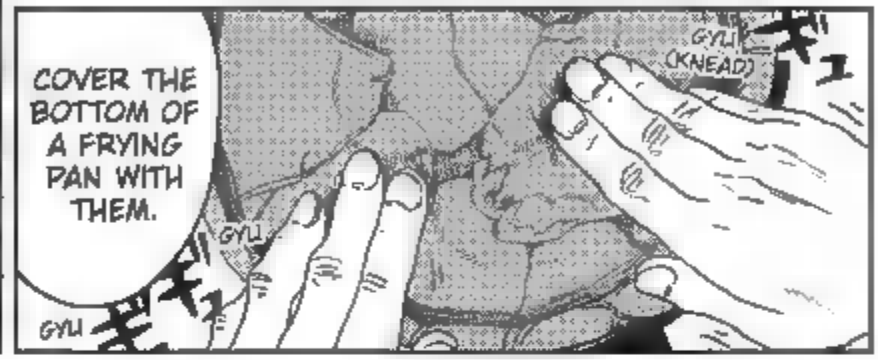
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
GIVE ME WHAT YOU JUST PUT IN YOUR ARMOR!
I WANT TO SEE IF THESE CAN GROW ABOVE-GROUND.



HEY!
GOSO (RSTL)

...ADD SOME SLIME AND A LITTLE SCORPION BROTH...
MASH THE UNRIPE FRUIT...

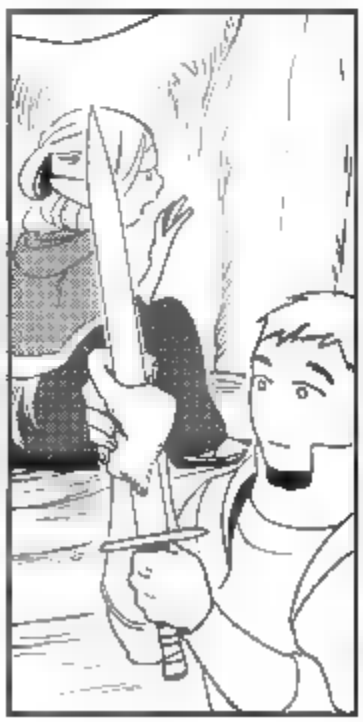
REMOVE THE PEELS, THEN POUND 'EM TILL THEY'RE SOFT.
BAN (BAM)
BAN
GAN (WHAM)


COVER THE BOTTOM OF A FRYING PAN WITH THEM.
GYU (KNEAD)
GYU
GYU

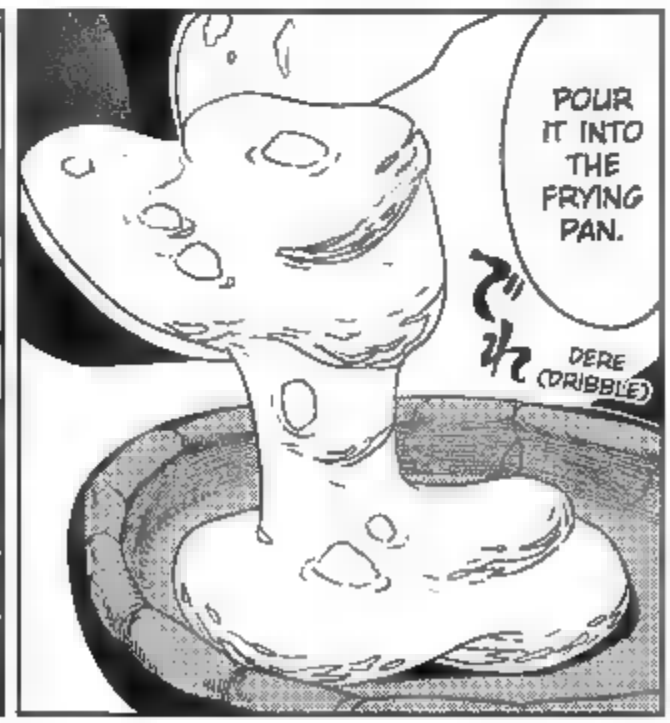
GIVE IT A FEW GOOD STIRS.
SAKU (WHISK)
SAKU

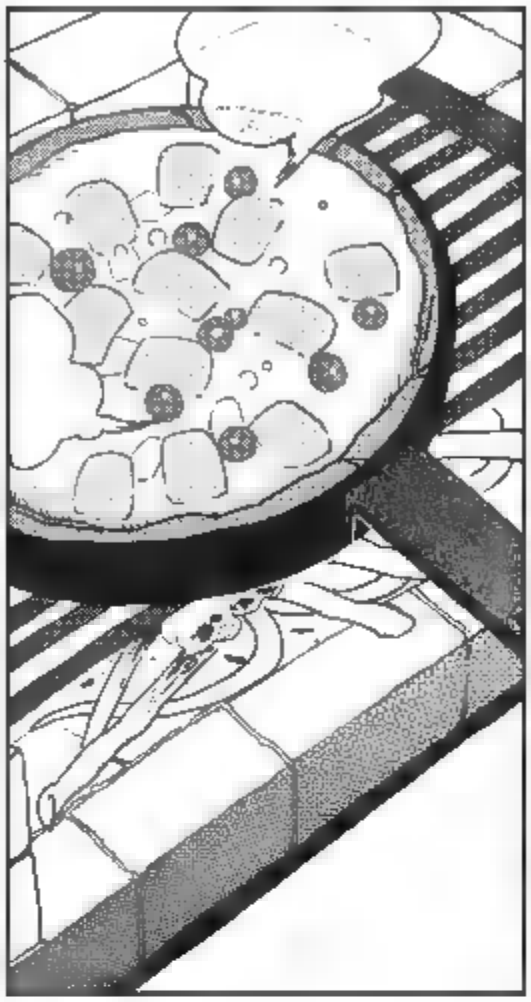
ONCE IT'S SMOOTH ...
...ADD THE REST OF THE SCORPION BROTH AND THE CHOPPED FRUIT.

...THEN MIX IT UNTIL IT GETS STICKY.
NUCHI
NUCHI
NUCHI (SPLIT)



THEN HEAT IT FOR A WHILE.

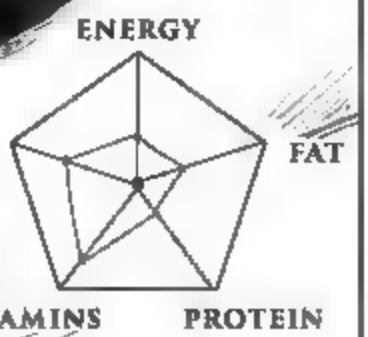

POUR IT INTO THE FRYING PAN.
DERE (DRIBBLE)



MAN-EATING PLANT TART

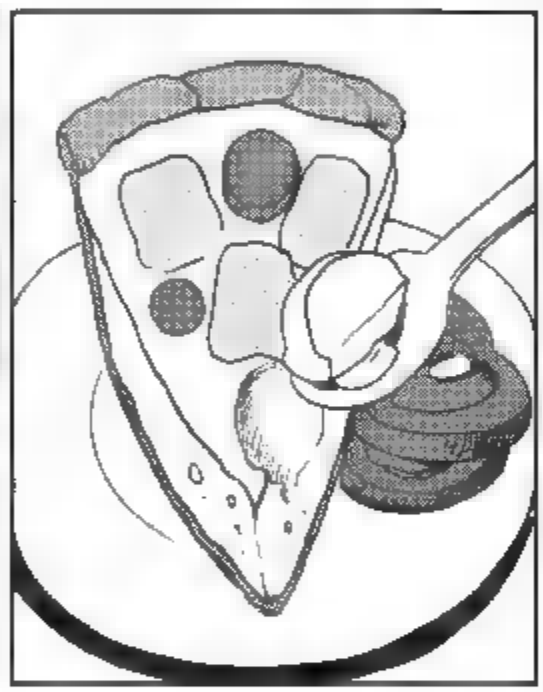
Ingredients (Serves 3~4)

Leftover scorpion broth (from lunch)	200 ml
Slime gelatin	80 g
Baraselia	3 medium
Meeroak	5~6 medium
Betan	3 medium
Salt	To taste
Pepper	A pinch



EEEK!

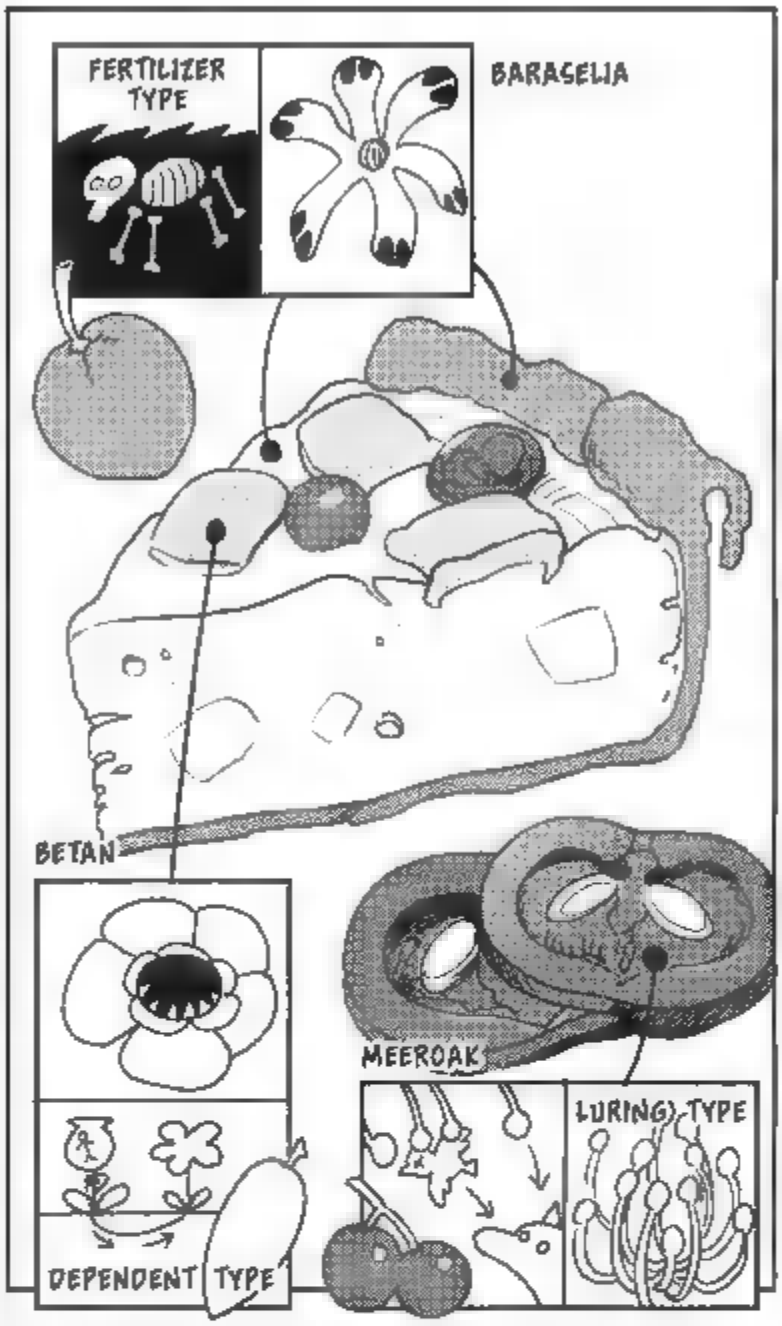
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T USE EGGS OR FLOUR...
IT...
IT'S A TART.
IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE ONE.
ZAKU (SLICE)



THE PEELS WERE JUST TO KEEP IT FROM SCORCH-ING.
YOU CAN LEAVE 'EM. DON'T EAT 'EM.
IT LOOKS RIGHT.

TRY IT, MARCILLE.
I THINK YOU'LL LIKE THE FLAVOR.

YEAH. IT'S GOOD.
IT'S NOT SWEET.
IT'S SALTY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I EX-PECTED.

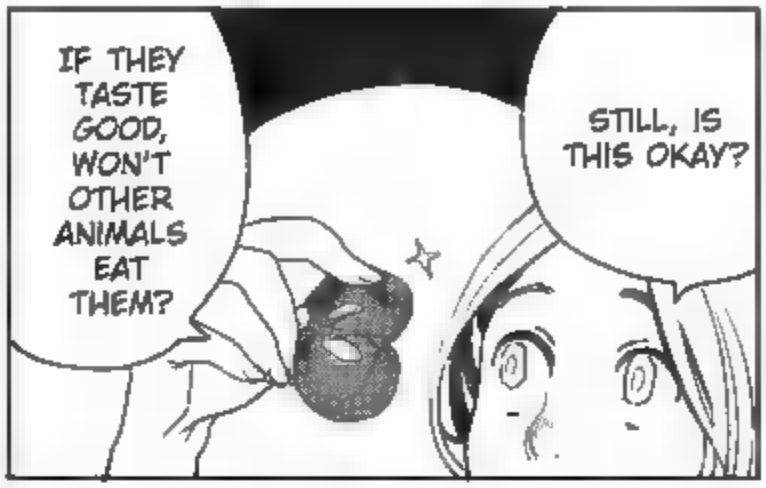

FERTILIZER TYPE
BARASELIA
BETAN
MEEROAK
LURING TYPE
DEPENDENT TYPE

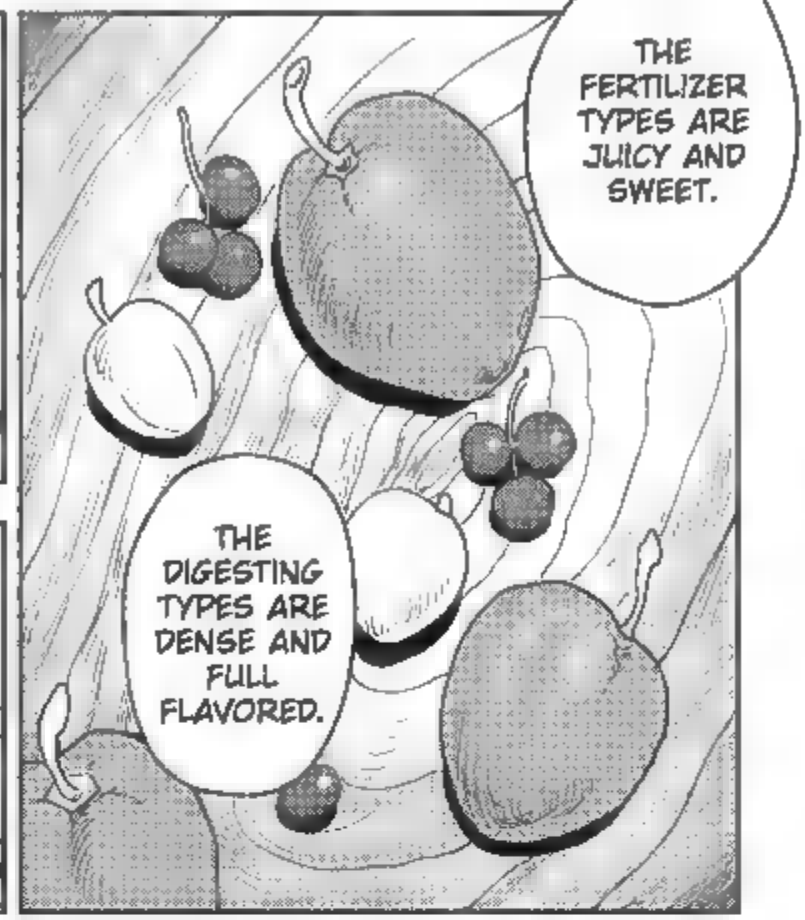
IT DOESN'T.
JIRO (GLARE)
じろ
じろ
JIRO
YOU'RE SURE IT DOESN'T HAVE FRUIT FROM THAT ONE PLANT IN IT?

SLIME DOESN'T SET UP WELL.
IF I'D USED THE GELATIN THAT BUILDS UP IN THAT PLANT...
...THIS WOULD'VE HELD TOGETHER BETTER THOUGH.
BOBO (MUTTER)

OH! IT'S...
IT'S REALLY GOOD.

PAKU (MUNCH)
はぐ


IF THEY TASTE GOOD, WON'T OTHER ANIMALS EAT THEM?
STILL, IS THIS OKAY?


THE FERTILIZER TYPES ARE JUICY AND SWEET.
THE DIGESTING TYPES ARE DENSE AND FULL FLAVORED.

PUTTING OUT FRUIT, JUST TO HAVE IT GET EATEN...
SHAKU (CRUNCH)

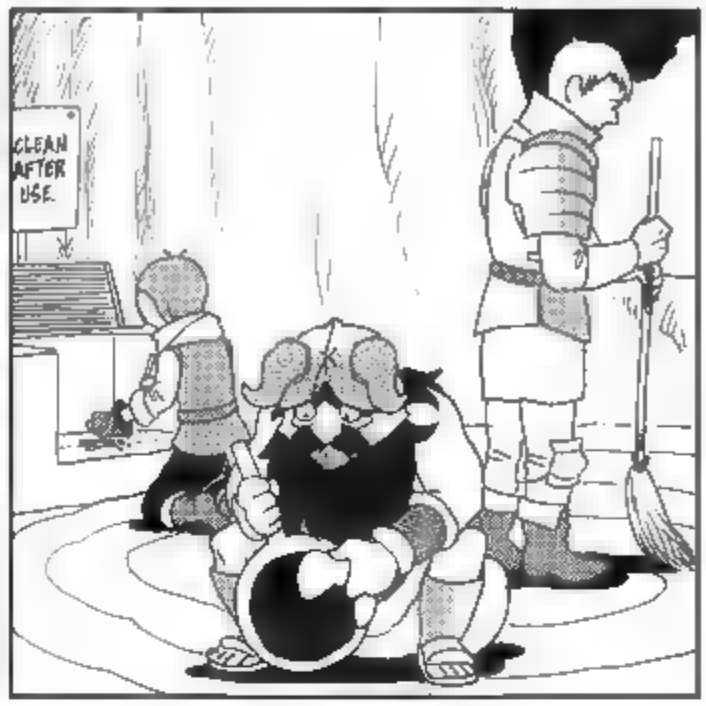
MOKU MOKU (MUNCH)
もくもく
HUH! SO BEING DELICIOUS IS PART OF ITS STRATEGY.
I SEE, I SEE.

OH, I GET IT.
WELL, THEY'RE CARNIVOROUS.
THEY TRAP ANIMALS THAT COME FOR THE FRUIT AND USE THEM AS FOOD.

NO! NO, I'M NOT!
THAT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY, MARCILLE.
YOU'RE STARTING TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THIS.
STOP IT!

AH!

HAAH...

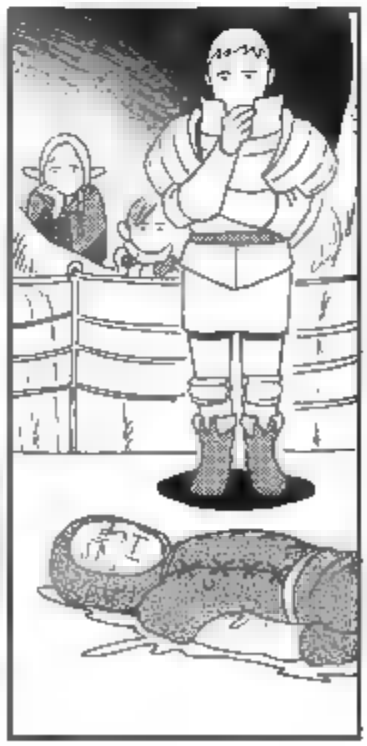

CLEAN AFTER USE.

GOSHI
GOSHI (SCRUB)
DD

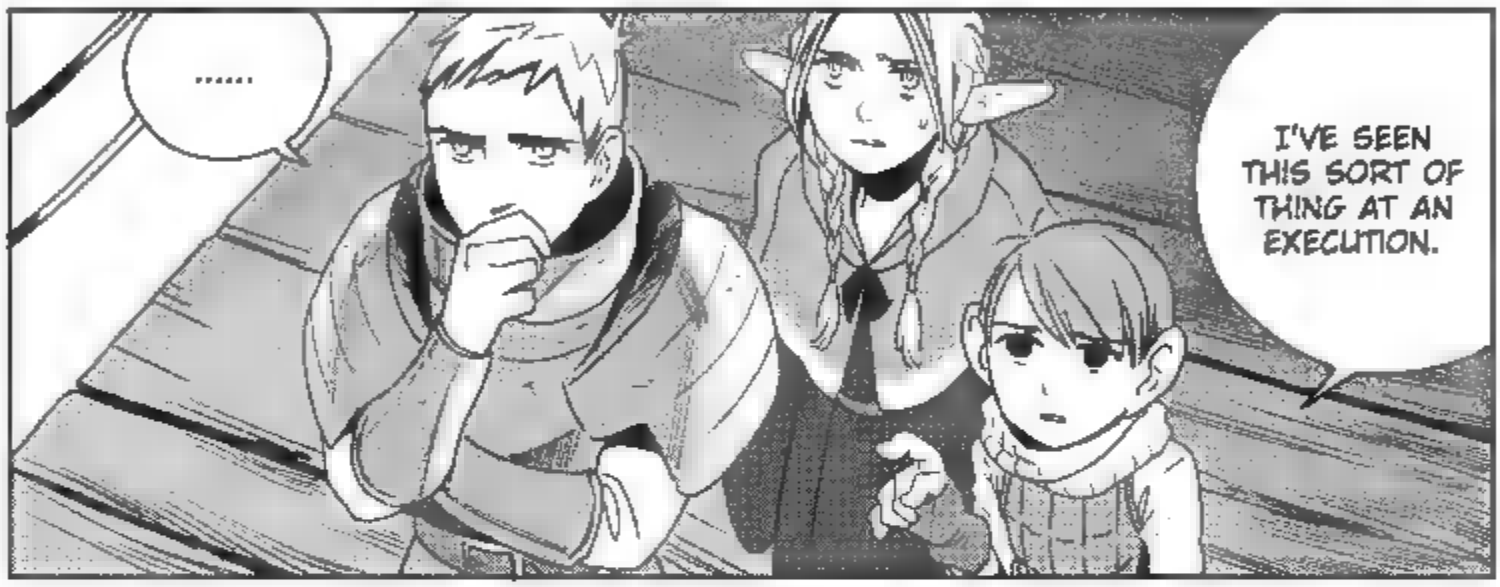
SHOULD I RES-URRECT HIM WITH MAGIC?
BETTER NOT.
THAT COULD GO WRONG.

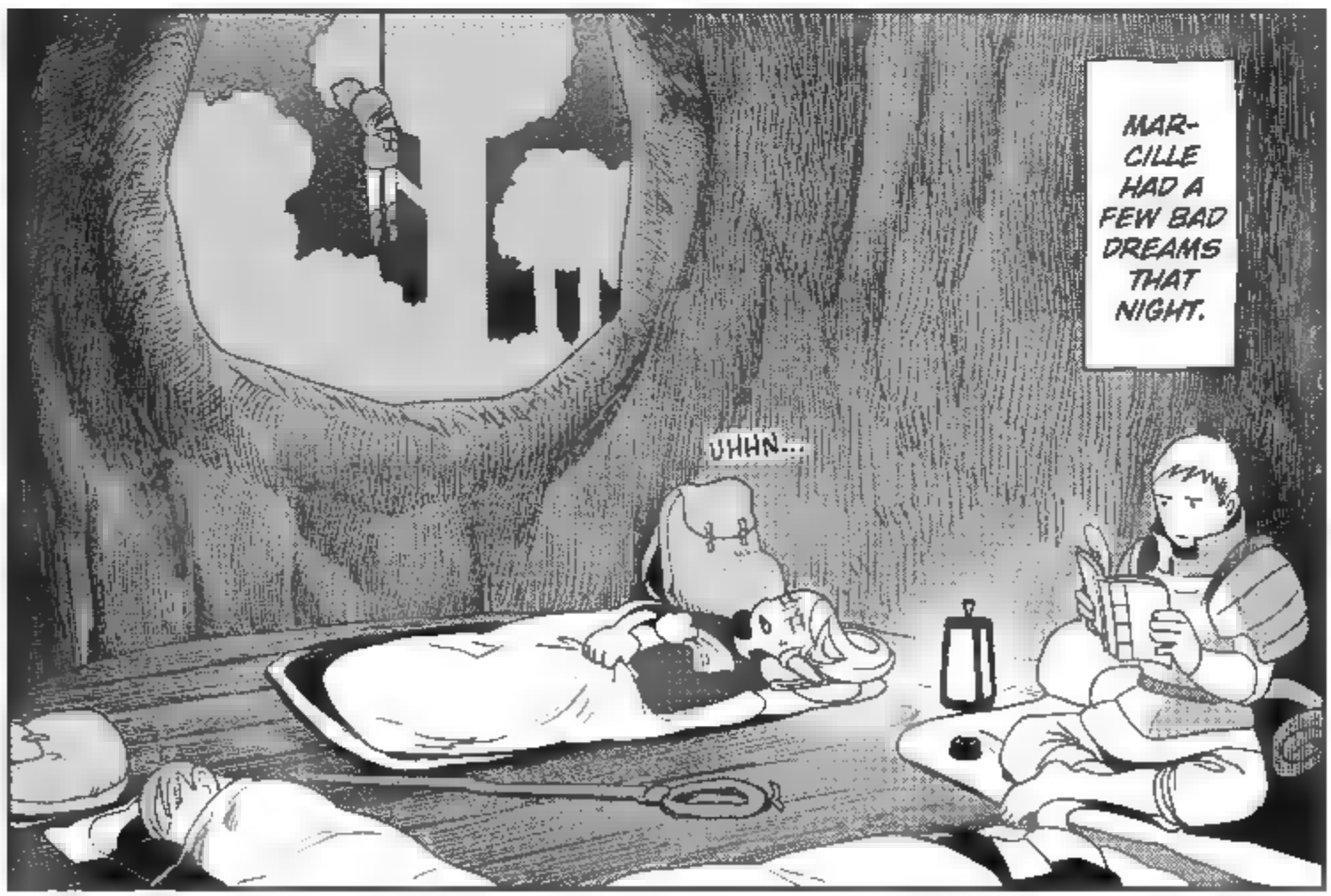
...AND? WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE CORPSE?
THEY DID BRING HIM THIS FAR.
WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE TOWN NOW.

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED.
LET'S MAKE SURE HE'S EASY TO SPOT...



IF WE LEAVE HIM SOME-WHERE REALLY VISIBLE, SOME-BODY'LL PICK HIM UP.
YOU'RE RIGHT.


.....
I'VE SEEN THIS SORT OF THING AT AN EXECUTION.

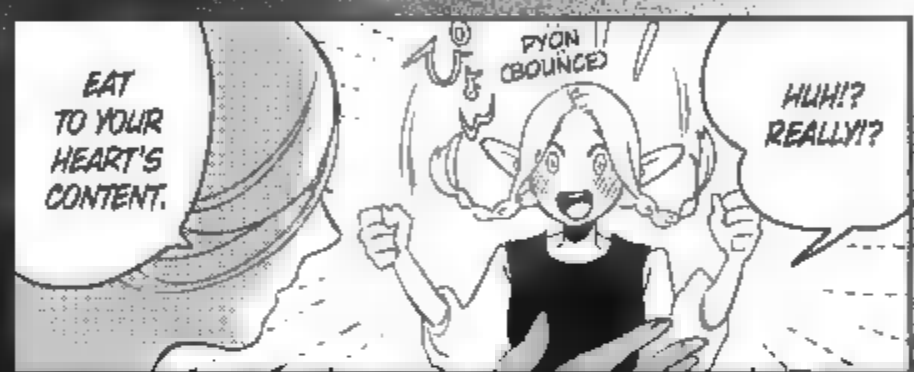

MAR-CILLE HAD A FEW BAD DREAMS THAT NIGHT.
UHHN...

3. Roast Basilisk

WHAT'S THIS? SOMETHING SMELLS AMAZING.
U FU FU.

FUWA (WAFT)

I'M BACK, MOTHER.
WELCOME HOME, MARCILLE.


EAT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
PYON (BOUNCE)
HUH!? REALLY!?

TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, AFTER ALL.
WE'RE HAVING ALL YOUR FAVORITES.

WOOOW...

SEE? ALL THE THINGS YOU LOVE...
...HARVESTED FROM THE DUNGEON.

NIGHT-MARE...
WHAT'S WRONG, MAR-CILLE?
IT'S JUST LIKE THE ONE IN MY DREAM!!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL!?
Ah!
FUWAA
AAAAGH!!
GABA (BOLT)
THEY'RE PROBABLY ROASTING MEAT.
ANOTHER PARTY'S MAKING BREAK-FAST OVER THERE.
LOOKS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
...AND EATING IT!!
I'M SO JEAL-OUS!
THEY'RE GRILLING SALT PORK...
...PUTTING IT ON BREAD...

100 Adventurers' Response to: "What Do You Usually Eat in the Dungeon?"
Dried Meat
Other
Wine
Bread
Year 513 Survey
WHAT DO YOUNG ADVENTURERS EAT THESE DAYS?
BREAD! DRIED MEAT! WINE!

TRULY DEPLORABLE.
THAT'S AWFUL.

CHEESE
MEAT
FISH
VEGETABLES
(GREEN/YELLOW)
(LEAFY GREENS)
(OTHER)
FRUIT
JUST ADDING A SIDE OF MAN-EATING PLANTS OR WALKING MUSHROOMS WOULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, BUT...
MALNUTRITION IS SCARIER THAN MONSTERS.
THE FAT IN MEAT HELPS GIVE YOU THE ENERGY TO EXPLORE THE DUNGEON. IT'S IMPORTANT, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

JUST FILLING ONE'S TUMMY ISN'T ENOUGH.
ATROCIOUS.
...YOUNG ADVENTURERS DON'T KNOW THAT.
BREAKFAST: YESTERDAY'S LEFTOVERS (MAN-EATING PLANT FRUIT)

NO, UM...
I WASN'T EXPECTING TO!
YESTERDAY WAS SCORPION HOT POT.
KU (WINCE)
...WE AREN'T EATING SQUARE MEALS EITHER, COME TO THAT.
.....
.....
WELL, I'M LECTURING, BUT...

COMMON SENSE.
THEY'RE ALL RICH IN NUTRIENTS, BUT...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S MISSING?
WE ALSO HAD FRUITS FROM THOSE MEAT-EATING PLANTS.

NO! I JUST DON'T WANT TO EAT MONSTERS!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR BODY WANTS FAT.
WHEN YOU SAW PORK, ELF-GIRL, YOU SAID YOU WERE JEALOUS.

PERFECT FOOD
EGGS ARE A PERFECT FOOD.
IF WE CAN GET EGGS TOO, THAT'S EVEN BETTER.
I WANT TO MAKE A POINT OF GATHERING THEM WHILE WE'RE IN HERE.
AND SO...
...TODAY WE'LL HUNT A MONSTER THAT'S RICH IN FAT.
"THAT" WHAT?
IT'LL HAVE TO BE *THAT*.
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU MEAN *THAT*?
U
THE BODY OF A CHICKEN.
THE TAIL OF A SNAKE.
WITH LETHAL VENOM IN ITS FANGS AND SPURS.
THE KING OF SNAKES: THE BASILISK!!

CAN WE ACTUALLY CALL THAT "CHICKEN"?

IS IT CHICKEN? REALLY?

DUNNO.

LUCKY YOU, MARCILLE. SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING SOME CHICKEN.

CHICKEN...

OH...

A BASILISK, HUH?

MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER

WITH JUST TWO SPECIES THOUGH, EACH HEIGHTENS THE CHARMS OF THE OTHER.

I USED TO THINK THE MORE SPECIES A MONSTER WAS MADE OF, THE BETTER IT WAS.

THEY'RE REALLY COOL, AREN'T THEY!?

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO COMPARE THEIR TASTE WITH BASILISK.

THE COCKATRICES THAT LIVE A BIT DEEPER DOWN ARE ANOTHER SNAKE-TAILED SPECIES.

THAT'S QUITE AN AMBITION...

LOOKS A BIT REPTILIAN TOO

COOL

COOL

COOL

SPURS

UNEXPECTEDLY AGGRESSIVE

THE COMBINATION IS SIMPLE, YET PROFOUND.

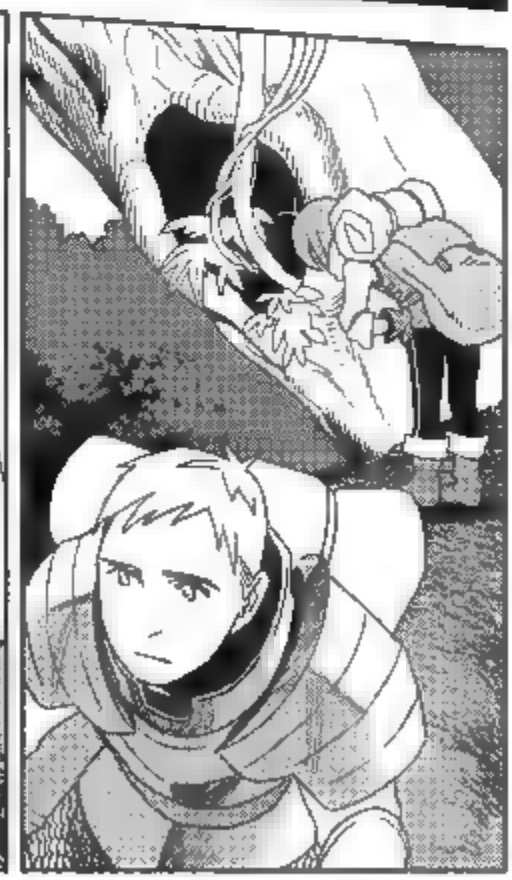
IT SHOWED ME THE APPEAL OF CHICKENS, WHEN I'D ONLY EVER SEEN THEM AS POULTRY.

THERE'S A BASILISK NEST AROUND THERE.

BASILISKS LAY EGGS EVERY TWO OR THREE DAYS, LIKE CHICKENS.

TAKE CARE NOT TO STEP ON ANY.

THEY'RE MOSTLY UNFERTIL-IZED, AND THEY'LL BE SCATTERED AROUND THE NESTS.



AREN'T THEY KINDA LONG AND SKINNY?

HERE, HOLD THIS.

MUNI (SQUISH)

AREN'T THEY KINDA SOFT?

THESE LOOK NEWLY LAID.

LET'S STEAL 'EM WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY.

AH-HA. HERE WE GO.

HEY, THAT PARTY FROM EARLIER IS GETTING ATTACKED.

GYAAA!

GAGU (SMASH)

THEN GO SAVE THEM ALREADY.

IT'S LIKE ASKING THEM TO KICK YOU IN THE BACK.

OH MAN...

THAT'S THE WORST WAY TO RUN FROM THEM.

EEE...

...

!?
BA (LEAP)
ZZ BRAWK!!
NU (LOOM)
BUWA (PUFF)
MAKE LOUD NOISES TO THREATEN THEM.
BAWK
BUK BUK
BUK
BAWK
BUK
SPREAD YOUR ARMS AND LEGS SO YOU LOOK BIGGER.
JIRI (CREEP) JIRI
CHILCHUCK, WANT TO PRETEND WE DON'T KNOW HIM?
THAT'S ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FROM RUSHING YOU IMMEDIATELY.
KYA

RAI

AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU'D THINK THEY HAVE NO BLIND SPOTS. HOWEVER...
BASI-LISKS HAVE HEADS ON THEIR TAILS AS WELL.
...THEY ONLY HAVE ONE BODY.
IF YOU ATTACK FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AT THE SAME TIME AND DISTRACT IT...
...THOSE TWO BRAINS CONFUSE THE BODY FOR A MOMENT!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OH...

HOW IS HIS WOUND?

LAIOS.

I'M SORRY.

UNFORTU-NATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY ANTIDOTES ON US AT THE—

Y-YES...

DID YOU GET POISONED?

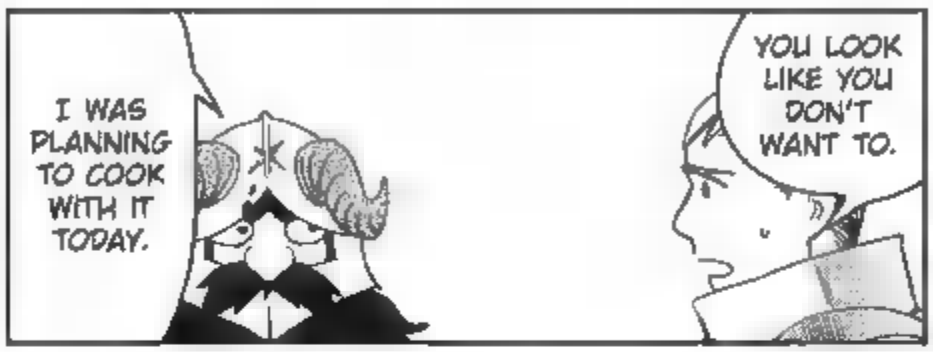
YOU GOT KICKED BY A SPUR, DIDN'T YOU?

DRAINING THE BLOOD

SENSHI SAYS WE DO.

THAT'S GREAT. COULD WE GIVE THEM ONE?

DO WE REALLY HAVE AN ANTI-DOTE?
YEP.


I WAS PLANNING TO COOK WITH IT TODAY.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO.

HE'S DYING, AND YOU STILL...!
BUT HE'S DYING!

HUH !?
IF WE'RE FEEDING IT TO HIM, WAIT TILL I'M DONE COOKING.

THEN HURRY! HURRY AND MAKE IT!
THE ANTIDOTE TASTES BETTER COOKED THAN EATEN BY ITSELF.

HURRY UP! I WANT TO EAT RIGHT NOW!
WOW, AM I HUN-GRY. I REALLY WANT TO EAT.
IT'S A FINE THING TO HAVE A HEARTY APPETITE.

?
IT'S A BIT EARLY FOR LUNCH YET.
NO, NO, IT ISN'T.

MUSHI (PLUCK)
むし
MUSHI
むし
MUSHI

SCALD IT LIGHTLY, THEN PLUCK IT.

GORI (CRUNCH)
CUT OFF THE LEGS AND THE TAIL.

TAKE OUT THE IN-NARDS.
EXCEPT IT'S HUGE.
WHOA! IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE A CHICKEN.

DON (WHUMP)

RUB IN THE SPICES.
GURI
ぐり
GURI (RUB)

I'LL GET THE VEGETABLE-AND-HERB STUFFING READY.

LET'S ROAST IT RIGHT NOW, OKAY!?
GAKU (TRMBL)
GAKU
ガク
GAKU
ガク
OVER-NIGHT, SAY.
IF YOU LET IT SIT AWHILE, THE FLAVORS WILL MARRY.

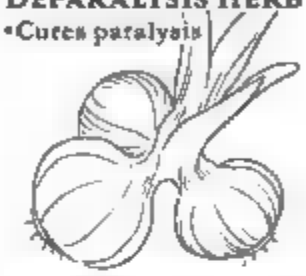
Mana Herb
•Full of mana

Medicinal Herb
•Good for external wounds

Good Medicinal Herb
•Really good for external wounds

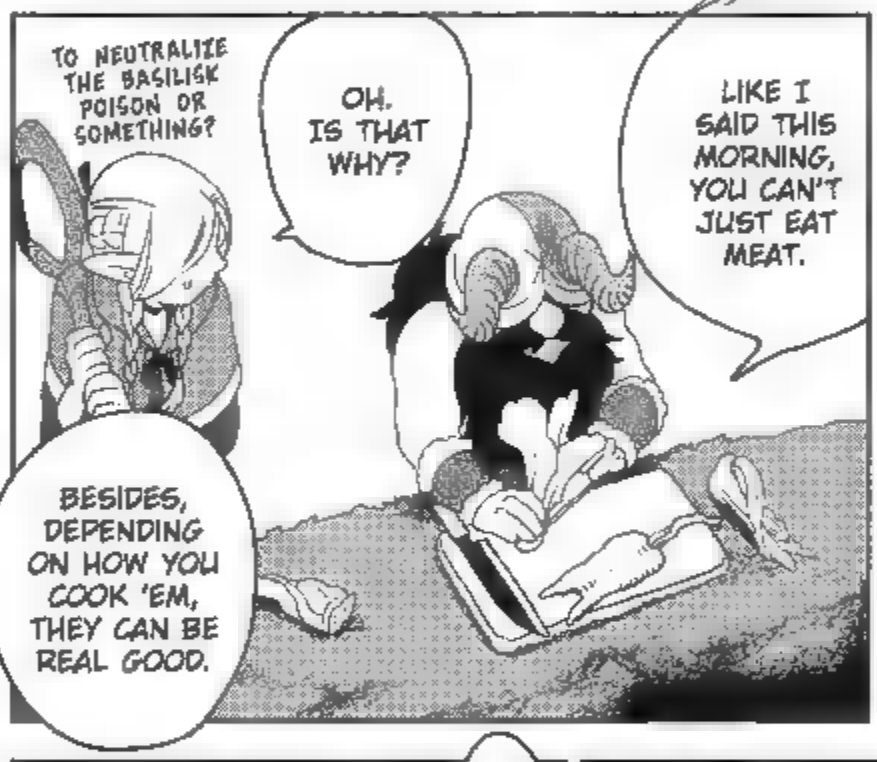
Depetrification Herb
•Cures petrification

Deparalysis Herb
•Cures paralysis



Burn Herb
•Good for burns

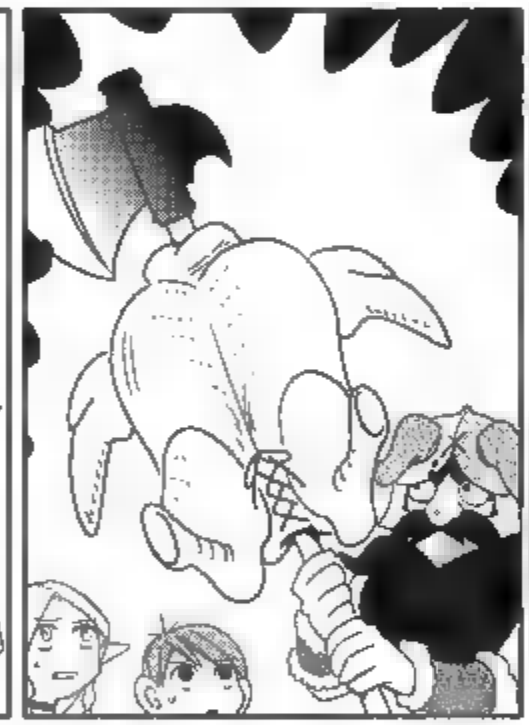
Antitoxin Herb
•Neutralizes poisons



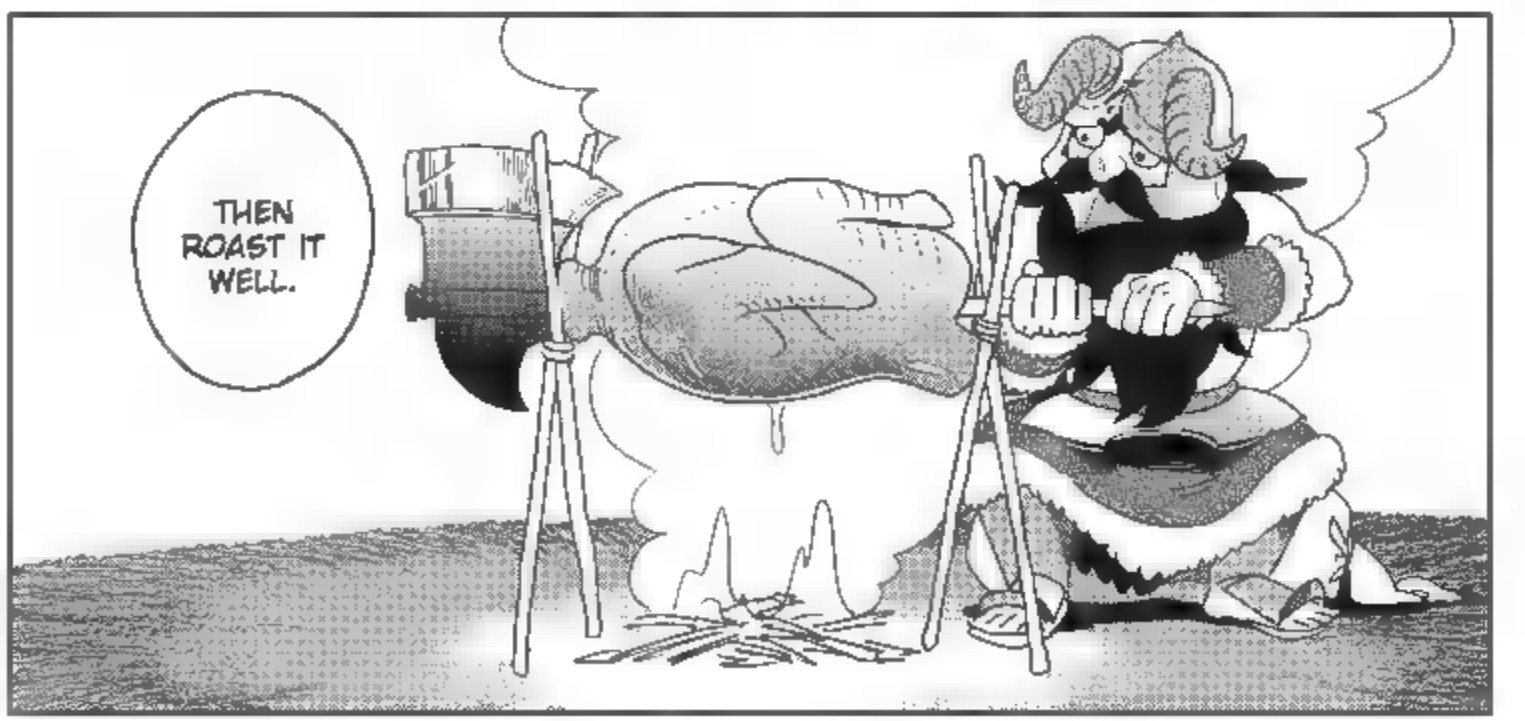
LIKI (GIDDY)
WE'LL SMOKE SOME OF THE MEAT AND EGGS.
MAYBE MAKE SOUP WITH THE TAIL...
LIKI

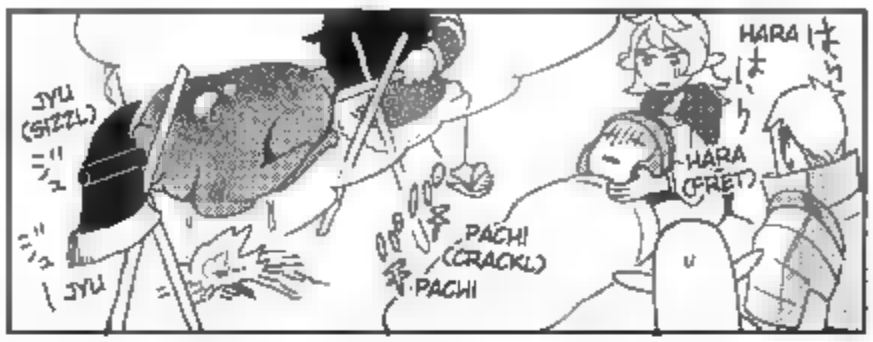
KYU (CINCH)
STUFF THE CAVITY WITH MINCED HERBS...
...THEN TIE UP THE CUT.

GASHA (CLANK)



RUN A SKEWER THROUGH THE MEAT.


THEN ROAST IT WELL.



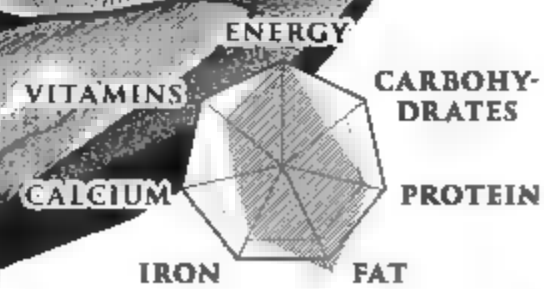
ROAST BASILISK

Ingredients (Serves 6)

Basilisk——1
(Tail and breast meat removed)
Mana herb——To taste
Salt and pepper——To taste
Stuffing:
Antitoxin herb——1 medium
Good medicinal herb——1 root
Amazing medicinal herb——1 root
Deparalysis——1 medium
Depetrification——1 medium

IT'S DONE!

OOOH...



HURRY!
HURRY AND FEED HIM SOME!

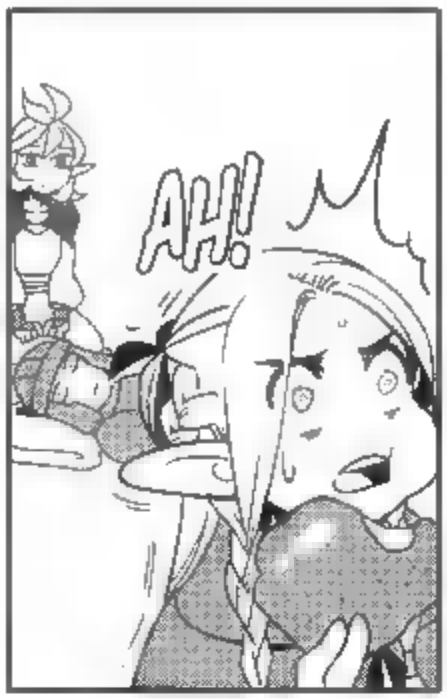
DOES HIS COLOR LOOK A BIT BETTER?
HE'LL RECOVER SOON.

THE...
THE MEAT IS... NICE AND JUICY.
WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS!

HOGU (CHEW)
もぐ…

GASHI (GRAB)
がし

YOU OTHERS COME AND EAT TOO.
IT'S GONNA GET COLD.
I'LL CAST A LITTLE RECOVERY SPELL ON HIM FIRST...
WAIT A SECOND.


AH!

I HEAR SNAKE TASTES A LOT LIKE CHICKEN TOO THOUGH.
AND IT DOES TASTE JUST LIKE CHICKEN.
WING TIP

YUM!
WOW!
THEY COULD SERVE THIS AT THE DINING HALL IN TOWN!

AHH...
THAT FEELS MUCH BETTER.

NEVER MIND THAT, HAVE SOME MORE.
THIS REALLY IS GOOD.
I'LL REPAY YOU FOR...

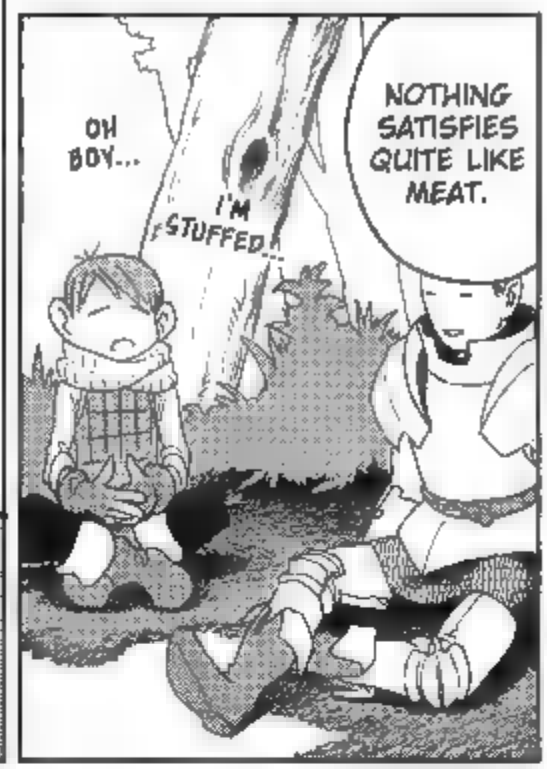
I'M NOT VERY GOOD, BUT...
I'LL CAST THAT RECOVERY SPELL NOW.
I-I'M SORRY.

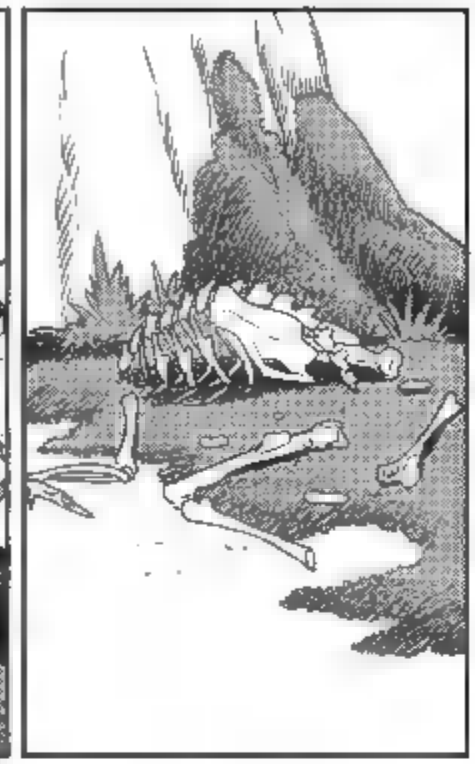
THIS ONE.
OOPS. WRONG ONE.

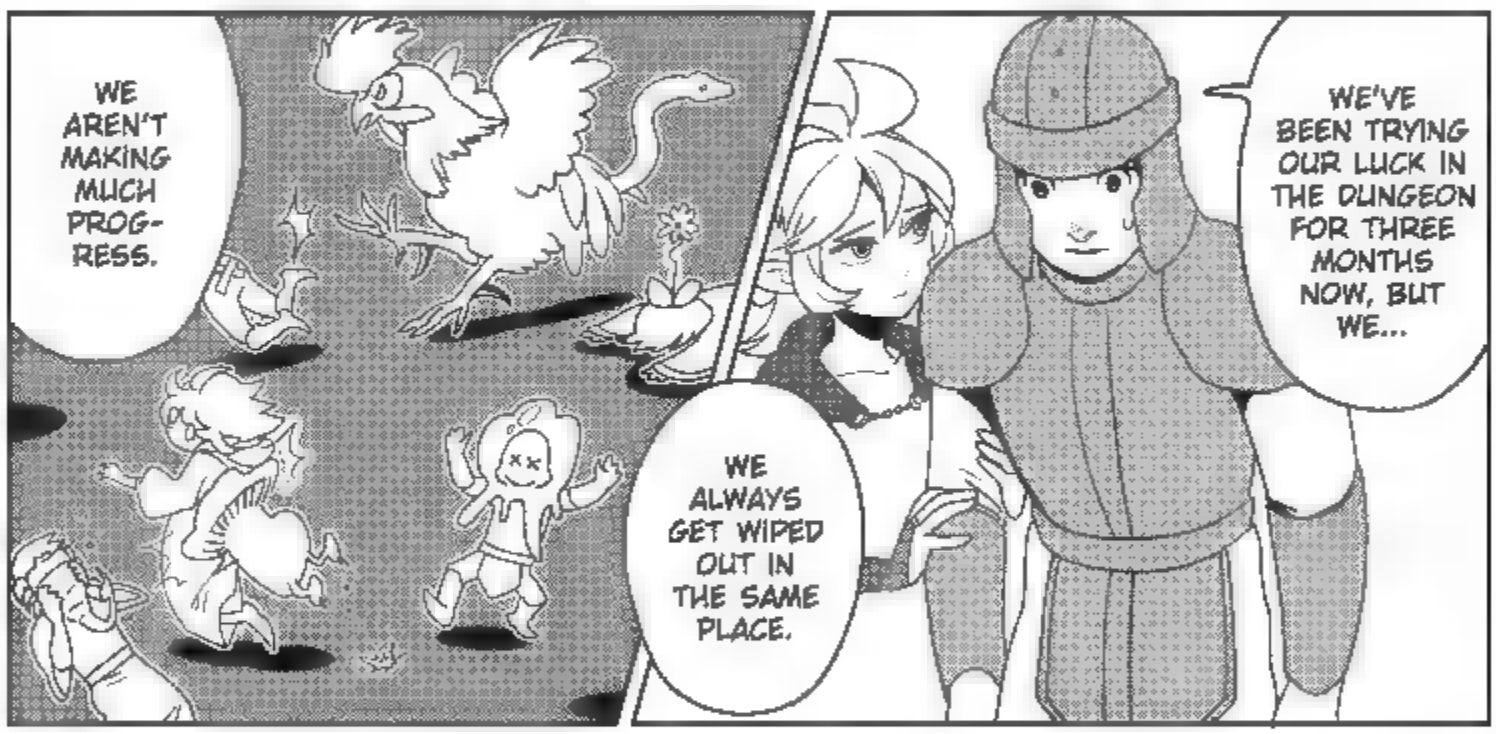
I'VE NEVER HAD PROPER FOOD LIKE THIS IN THE DUNGEON BEFORE.
YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR DIET BALANCED.

.....
S...
SURE, WE'LL HAVE SOME.

U-
UM...


OH
BOY...
I'M
STUFFED...
NOTHING
SATISFIES
QUITE LIKE
MEAT.




WE
AREN'T
MAKING
MUCH
PROG-
RESS.
WE'VE
BEEN TRYING
OUR LUCK IN
THE DUNGEON
FOR THREE
MONTHS
NOW, BUT
WE...
WE
ALWAYS
GET WIPED
OUT IN
THE SAME
PLACE.

UH...
WELL,
UM...

LAIOS, SIR,
HOW CAN
WE GET
STRONG
ENOUGH...
...TO COOK
MONSTERS
THE WAY
YOUR
GROUP
DOES!?

REGUL IME

REG-ULATE YOUR DAILY RHY-THMS!!

FIR—

IDEA

FIRST, IMPROVE YOUR DIET!!

ADD MODER-ATE EXER-CISE!

10,000 STEPS A DAY

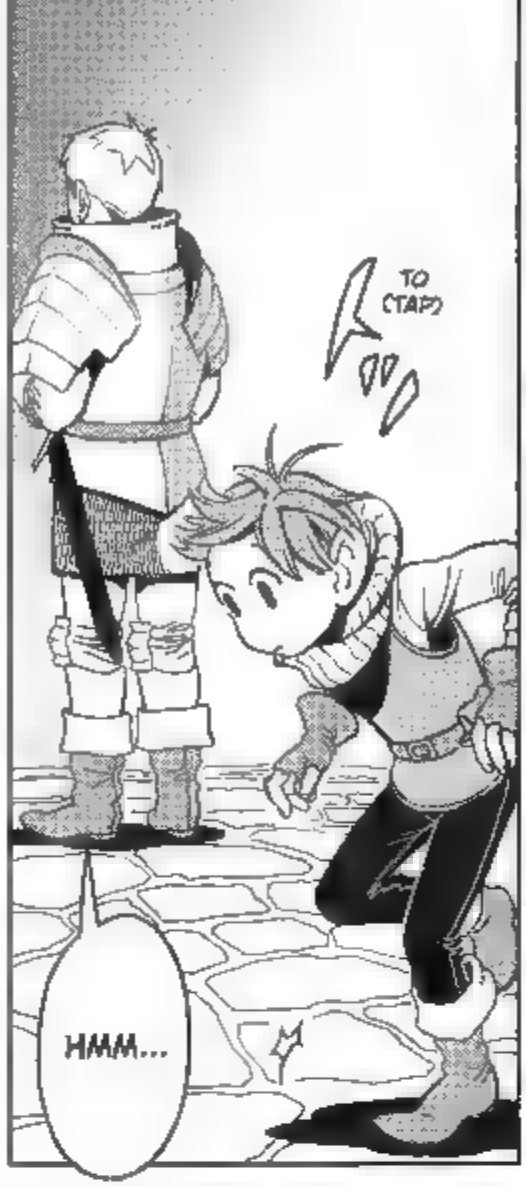
VICT ORY

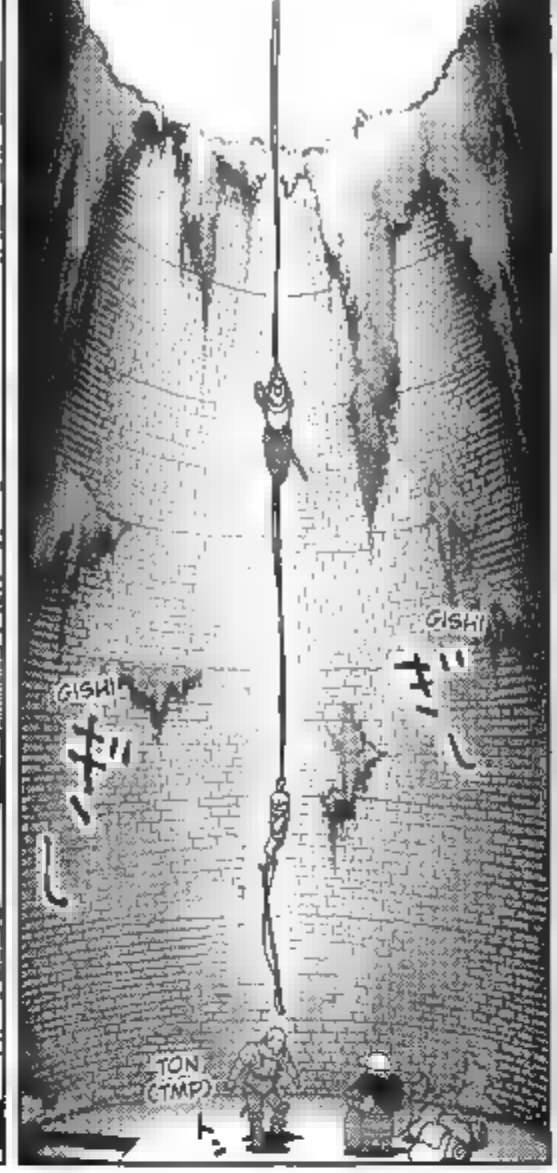
WATCH THESE THREE POINTS...

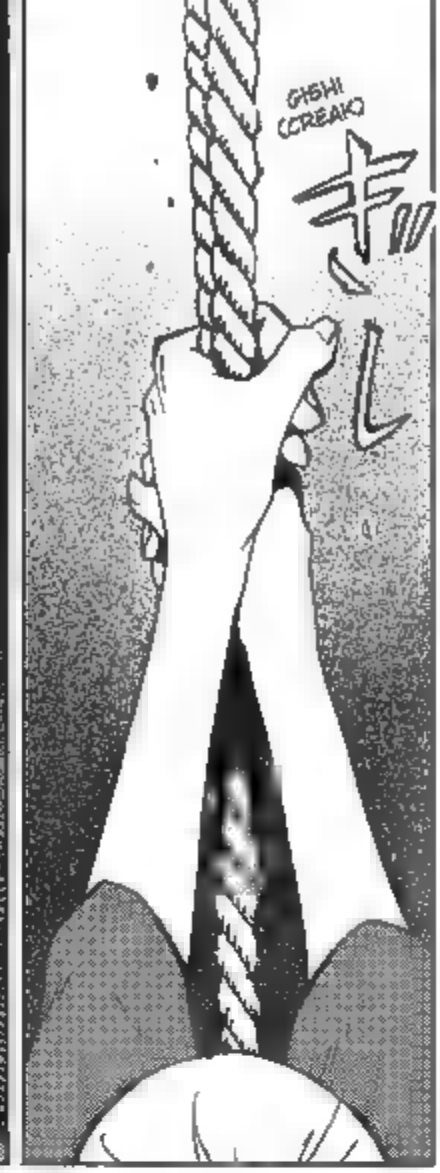
...AND YOU'LL NATURALLY WORK YOUR WAY TOWARD STRONG BODIES !!

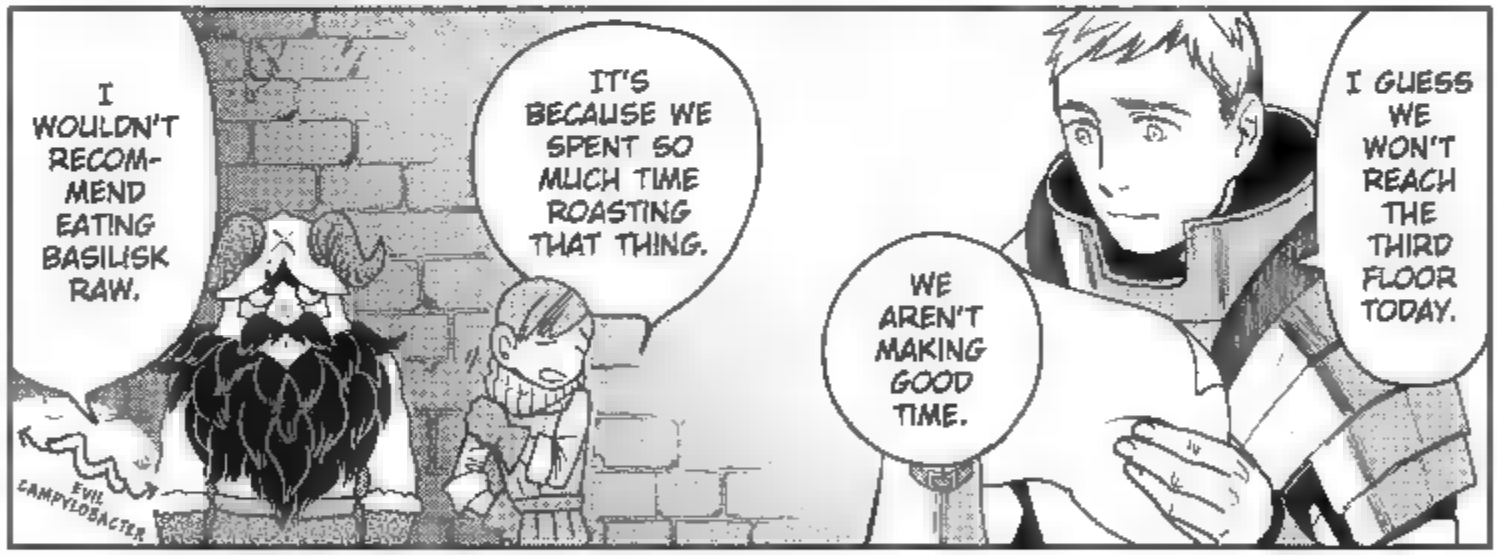
CHAPTER 3: THE END

4. Omelet


TO (TAP)
HMM...


GISHI
GISHI
TON (TMP)


GISHI (CREAK)

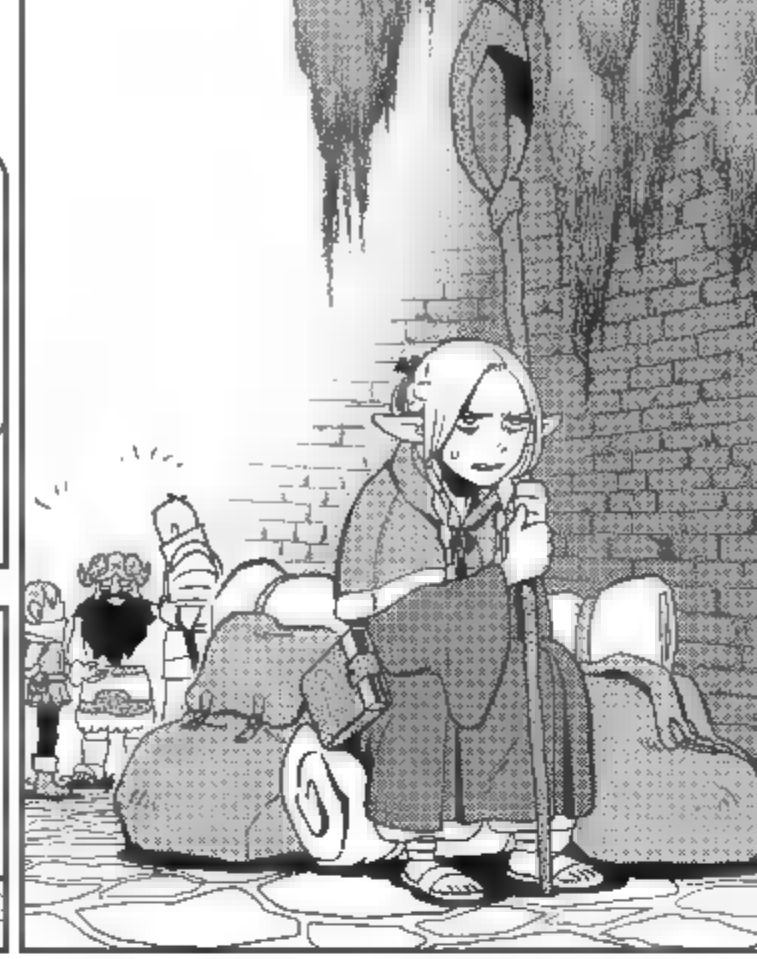

I WOULDN'T RECOM-MEND EATING BASILISK RAW.
IT'S BECAUSE WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME ROASTING THAT THING.
EVIL CAMPYLOBACTER
WE AREN'T MAKING GOOD TIME.
I GUESS WE WON'T REACH THE THIRD FLOOR TODAY.

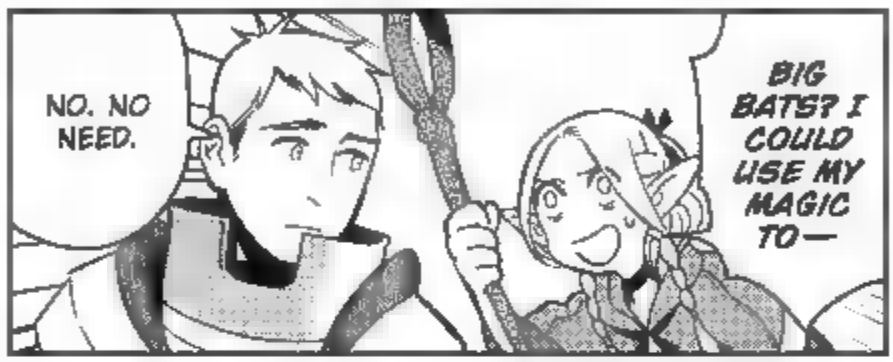
THEN IT'S ASLEEP WITH A FULL STOMACH RIGHT NOW?
I REALLY WANT TO FIND IT BEFORE ITS STOMACH'S EMPTY AGAIN.

I HEAR THE RED DRAGON WAKES UP ONCE A MONTH TO HUNT.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN WE RAN INTO IT THE OTHER DAY.

GO (WHLIP)
BATA (FLAIL)
JITA (KICK)
I'D LIKE TO MOVE A LITTLE FASTER...
MARCILLE.
GHK!
WAIT A...
I CAN WALK LOTS MORE, NO PROBLEM!
GAKU
I'M PERFECTLY FINE!
GAKU
GAKU (TRMBL)
WHY ARE ELVES SO SLOW ANY-WAY?
...THIS MIGHT BE TOUGH.
BOSO (MUTTER)
GAAAN (SHOCK)
...AND THEN GET HURT, YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO HOLD US BACK, ALL RIGHT!?
LIS-TEN.
IF YOU KEEP BLUFF-ING LIKE THAT...
I'M NOT PUSH-ING MY-SELF!
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
HAAH!

HM!?
THE BIG BATS WILL GET IN THE WAY THOUGH.
IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO TAKE THE OUTSIDE ROUTE.




NO. NO NEED.
BIG BATS? I COULD USE MY MAGIC TO—

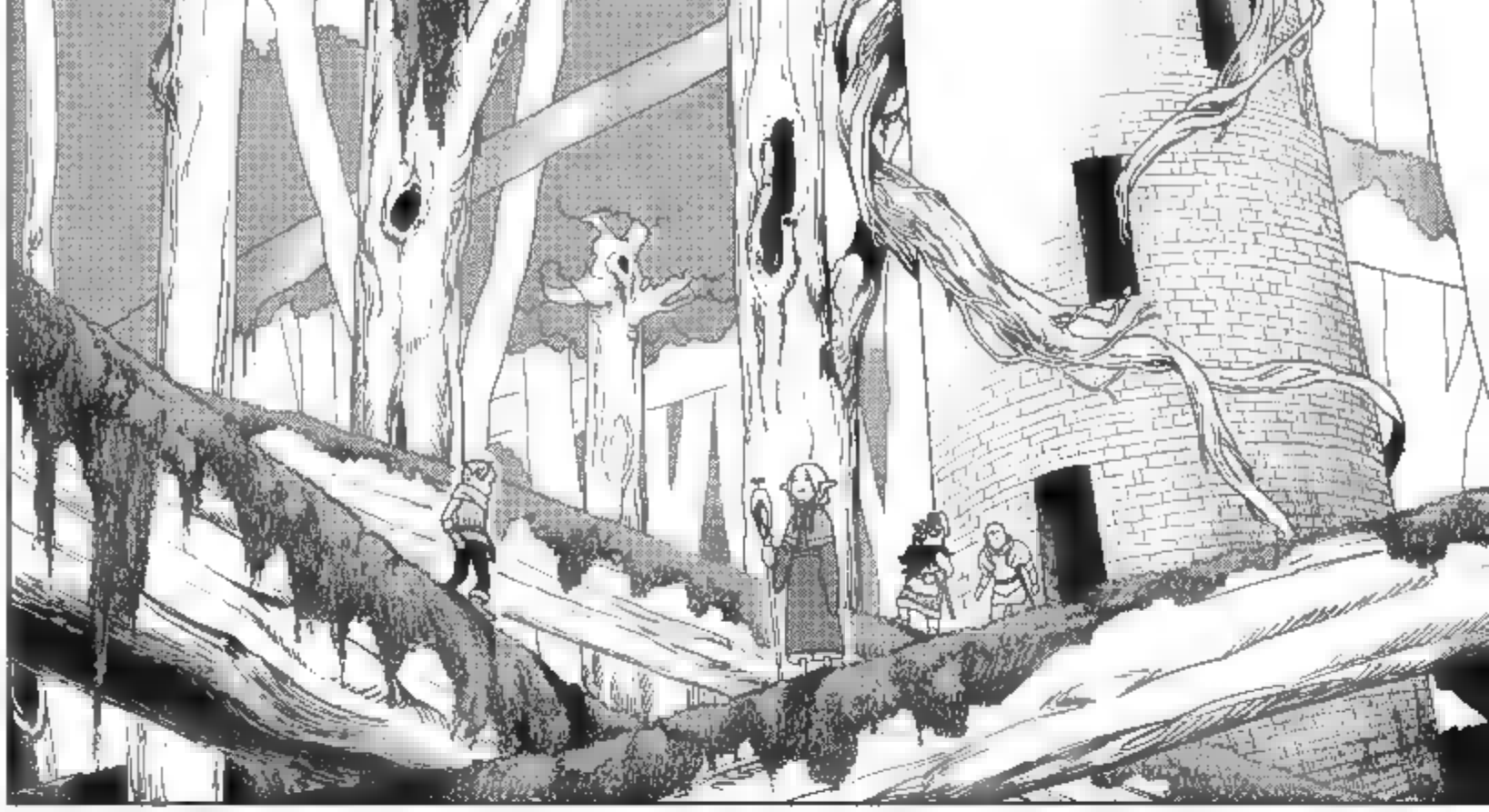
IT'S FASTER TO HAVE CHILCHUCK DISARM THEM.
I COULD USE A TRAP-DISARMING SPELL TO—

WHY NOT TAKE THE SECRET PAS-SAGE?
IT'LL HAVE LOTS OF TRAPS, BUT NOT MANY MON-STERS.
THERE WAS ONE AROUND HERE.

CAN'T WE MAKE DO WITH THE LEFTOVERS FROM LUNCH?
THEY'RE JUST MEAT AND EGGS.
WE'LL NEED VEGE-TABLES.

THERE WON'T BE MANY MON-STERS?
IN THAT CASE, I'D LIKE TO GET OUR PROVI-SIONS SORTED NOW.

ばっ
BA (WHIP)
MAN-DRAKES!
THERE'S A MANDRAKE COLONY NEAR HERE.
I'LL GO GET SOME WHILE THE ELF-GIRL'S RESTING.
LET ME HANDLE THAT!
I KNOW HOW TO PICK MAN-DRAKES!
HERE! OVER HERE!
AMATEURS WHO TRY PAY FOR IT DEARLY.
HANDLING MANDRAKES IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
...AND YOU'RE A PRO?
I'M FINE ON MY OWN.
NO!

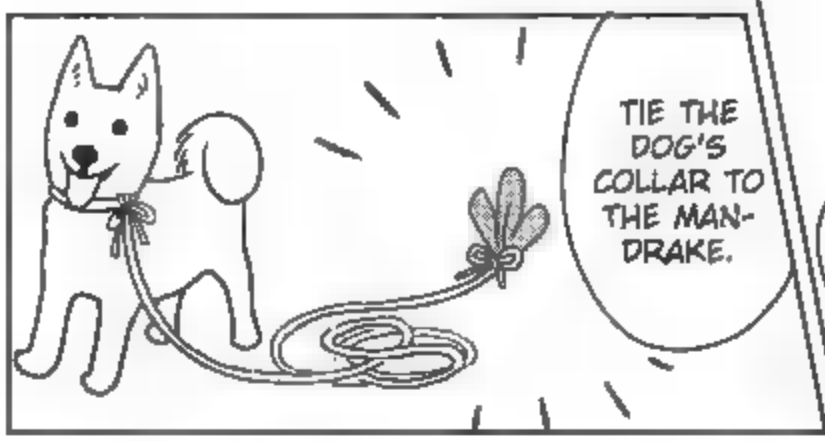


I WANT ALL OF YOU TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS THIS TIME.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS MY FIELD.

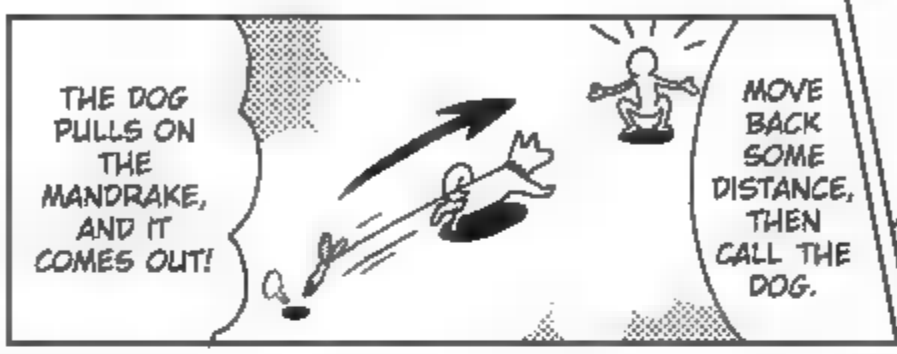
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT THIS STUFF. WHY ARE YOU SO INTO IT TODAY?
MAN-DRAKES ARE A FUNDA-MENTAL OF MAGIC AND MEDICINE.

WE'LL BE THAT MUCH FARTHER FROM RESCUING FALIN.
IF THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL BE WIPED OUT.
TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAP-PEN...!

WHEN MAN-DRAKES ARE PULLED FROM THE GROUND, THEY SCREAM.
IF YOU HEAR IT, YOU'LL GO INSANE. IT MIGHT EVEN KILL YOU.


TIE THE DOG'S COLLAR TO THE MAN-DRAKE.

FIRST, WE NEED A CORD AND A WELL-TRAINED DOG.
A DOG?

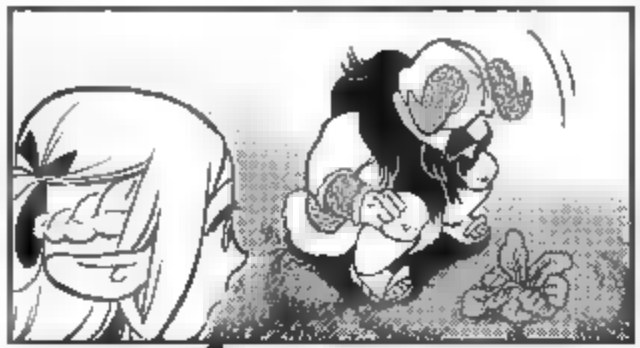

THE DOG PULLS ON THE MANDRAKE, AND IT COMES OUT!
MOVE BACK SOME DISTANCE, THEN CALL THE DOG.

UH...
BUT AT SCHOOL, THEY...
AND ANYWAY, ISN'T THAT METHOD REALLY INEFFICIENT?
NO, I MEANT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE DOG?

IT DIES...
WHAT ABOUT THE DOG?
HUH!? THAT'S MEAN!

USE A CORD LONG ENOUGH THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR THE MANDRAKE.
I CAN'T HEEEAR YOU!
HUH?
THEN WE WOULDN'T NEED THE DOG.
BWEH?

COULDN'T WE JUST USE A LONG CORD?
HUH?



DOSU (WHUMP)

I... DON'T THINK THAT'S OKAY.
BE-CAUSE, UM...IT'S HARD TO ADJUST THE PULL FORCE? MAYBE ...?

GUI (TUG)

POI (TOSS)

DOSU (SHUNK)

DOKI (BADMP)
DOKKI
DOKKI
DOKKI
DOKKI
THAT SCARED ME...
SO THAT SCREAM WAS MARCILLE?

THIS IS TRUE.

IT'S EASY IF YOU CUT OFF THEIR HEADS BEFORE THEY SCREAM.
THEY CAN'T MAKE A SOUND WITHOUT THEIR HEADS.

NO, NO, NO.
AH!

HAVE YOU EVER USED THE METHOD FROM THAT BOOK, MARCILLE?
BUT SENSHI HAS ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.
DOKI

NOTHING'S RISKIER THAN THAT SORT OF AMATEUR MOVE!!
NO, NO WAY! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
THOSE AREN'T MUSHROOMS OR MOUNTAIN HERBS, YOU KNOW!
I'VE EATEN 'EM THIS WAY FOR YEARS.

.....
.....
...YES.
WHAT, SERIOUSLY? THE POOR DOG.

BECAUSE, I MEAN...
I NEVER HAVE...
...THE POOR DOG...

BUT IF A METHOD THAT EASY WAS OKAY...

...THEN A SPECIALIZED, TIME-TESTED BOOK WOULD HAVE SAID SO.

WE'LL JUST USE SENSHI'S METHOD.

ANYWAY, THERE'S NO DOG HERE, AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT SHOW THEM?

I'LL PROVE THIS METHOD MAKES SENSE!

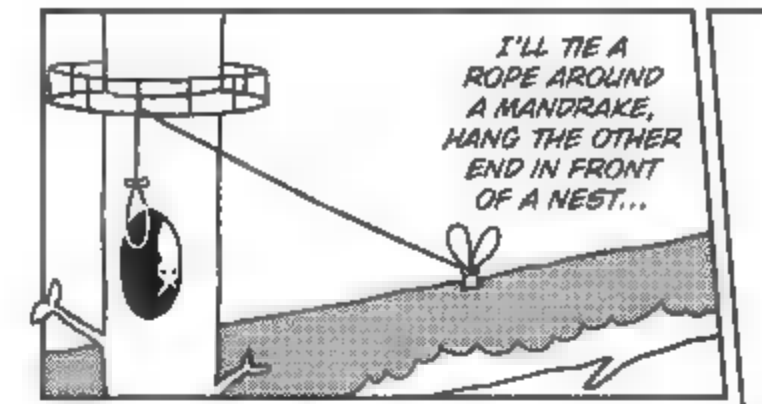
HE'S RIGHT. ON ITS OWN, BOOK KNOWLEDGE ISN'T VERY PERSUASIVE.

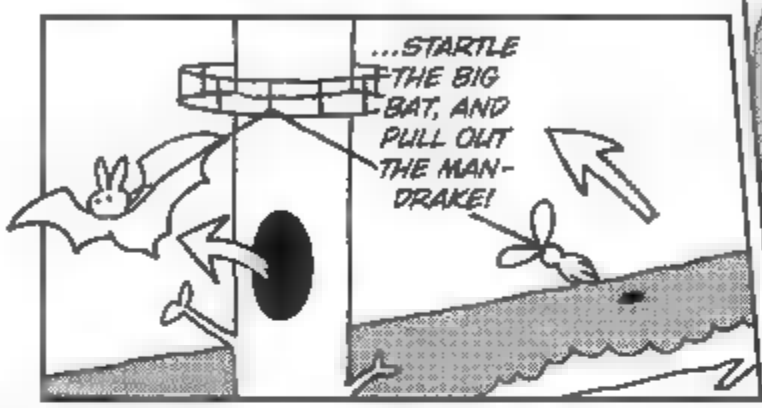
HEH.

THAT SAID, I CAN'T USE A DOG, SO...

WE'RE SORRY WE SAID YOU WERE HOLDING US BACK!

YOU'RE FORGIVEN.


I'LL TIE A ROPE AROUND A MANDRAKE, HANG THE OTHER END IN FRONT OF A NEST...


...STARTLE THE BIG BAT, AND PULL OUT THE MAN-DRAKE!

THE MONSTERS AROUND HERE ARE BIG BATS.
THEY SHOULD BE ASLEEP IN THEIR NESTS NOW.

...I'LL USE A MONSTER TO PULL IT OUT!
SHURU (COIL)
SHURU

KURU (WIND)
KURU

KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO

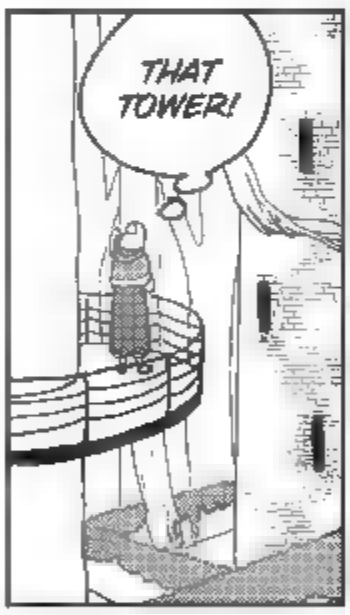
THE BOOK DIDN'T SAY HOW TIGHT IT SHOULD BE.
IS THIS RIGHT?
GYU (CINCH)

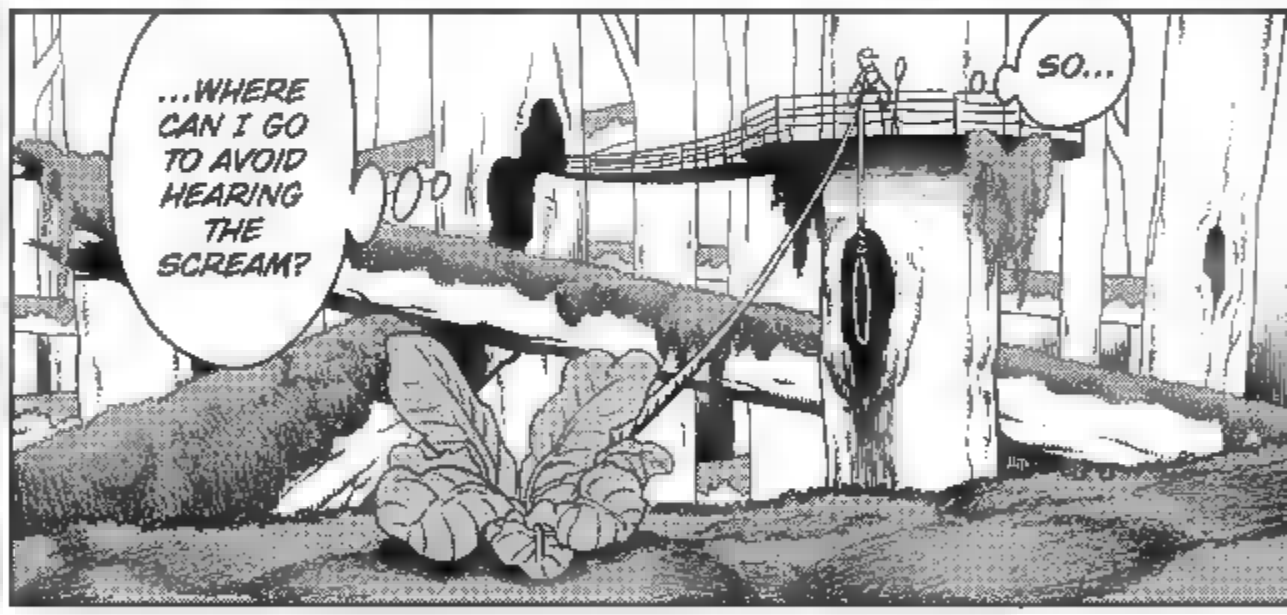
TO THINK LAIOS'S KNOWL-EDGE WOULD ACTUALLY COME IN HANDY...

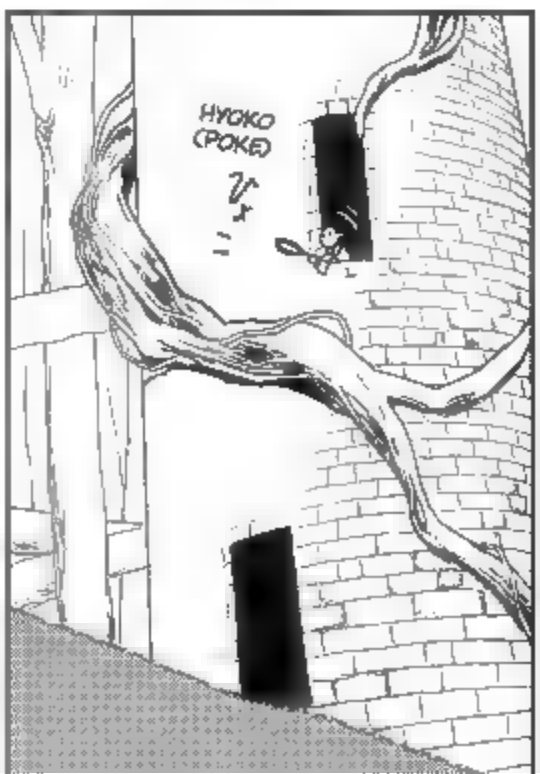
YOU CAN TELL WHICH ONES ARE BIG BAT NESTS BY THE GUANO.

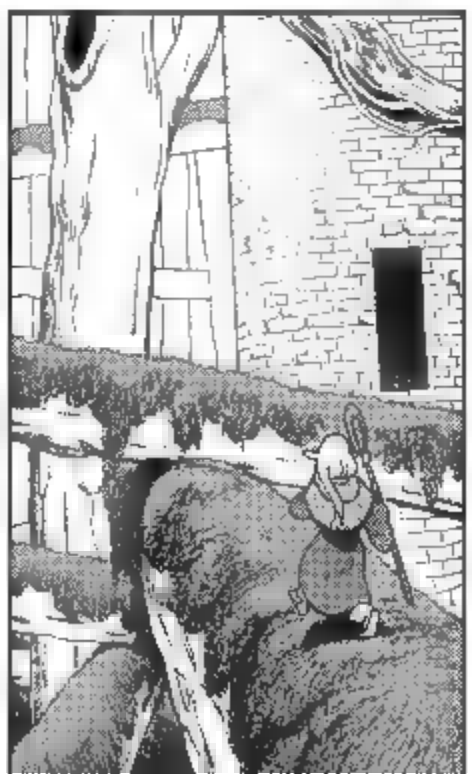
SURU (SHUF)

SURU









BO
(FWOOM)
!
AIM CARE-FULLY, AND...
BOFU
(BOOMF)
!!?

BA (FWOOSH)
SHURU (SLIP)
GU (SNAG)
NO GOOD!?
BIN (TUG)
SHURURURU (FWIRRRL)
YESSS!
NOW THE MAN-DRAKE WILL GET...

WHOA! WHAT IS THAT?
MAR-CILLE!?
IT'S OUT!
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
!?!

HUH?

AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHY YOU SHOULDN'T USE BIG BATS INSTEAD OF DOGS.

WAIT...

NO.

ACTUAL PRACTICE REALLY IS IMPORTANT.

M-MAR-CILLE...

DOGOMU (KABOOM)

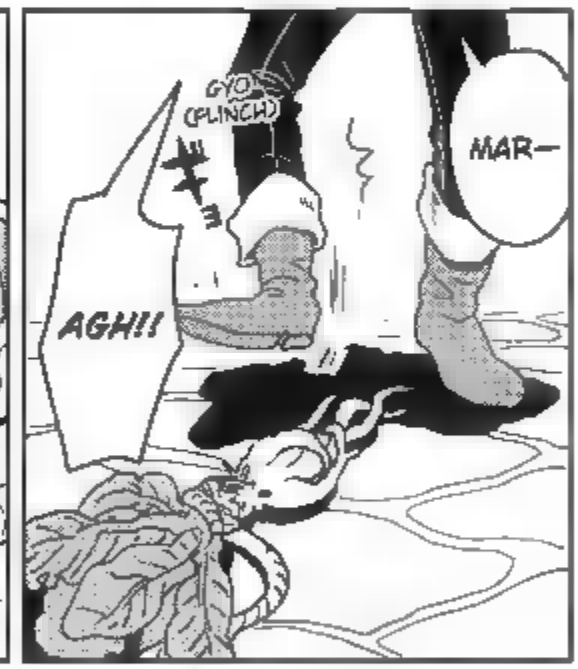
GEHI

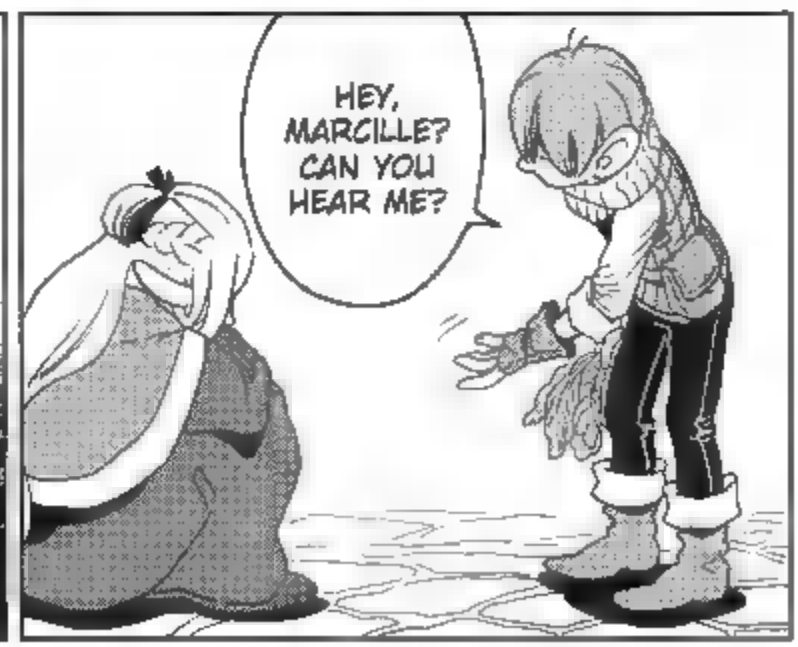
BECAUSE THE CRAZED BIG BAT MIGHT FALL ON YOU WITH THE MANDRAKE.

WHAT HAP-PENED?
OH.
SHE'S ALIVE.

DOTA (STOMP)
どだ
DOTA
どだ
IS SHE DEAD!?

THAT WAS DUMB.
YOU USED A BIG BAT INSTEAD OF A DOG.


GYO (FLINCH)
MAR—
AGH!!

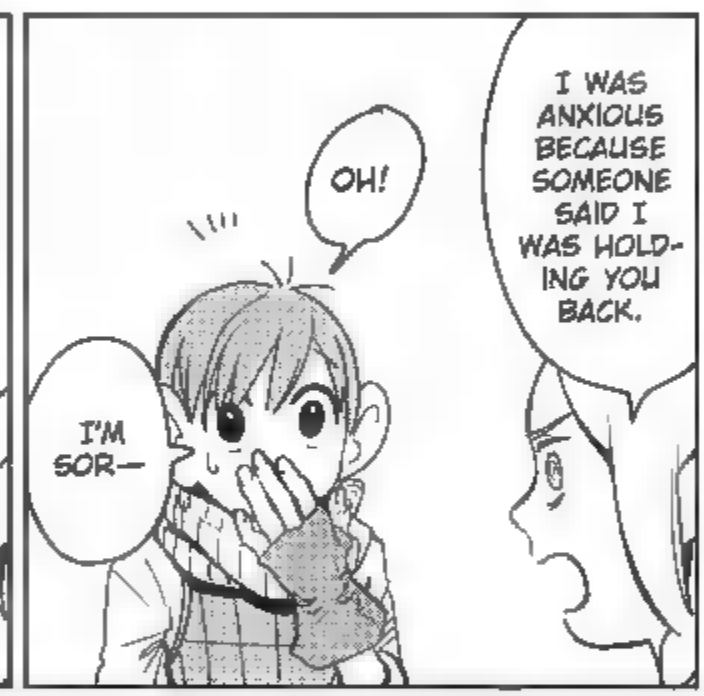

HEY, MARCILLE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

KEEP TALKING TO HER.
SHE SHOULD GET MORE LUCID.
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?

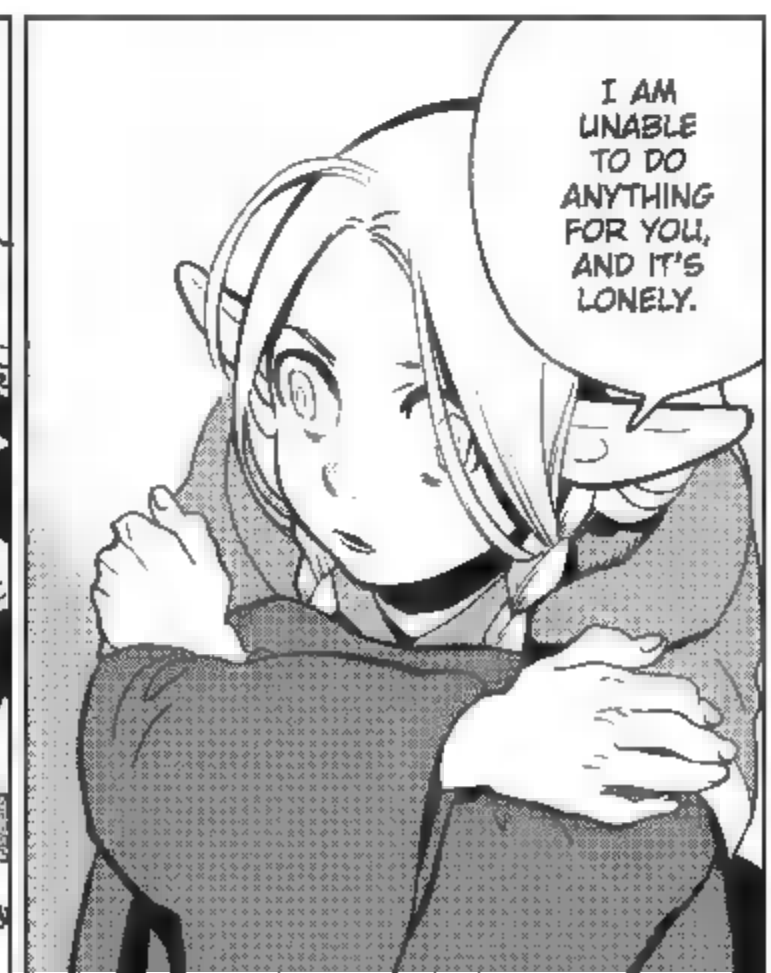
NO, YOU'RE REALLY NOT.
SHE HEARD THE SCREAM.

YES.
I'M THE VERY PICTURE OF HEALTH, GOOD SIR.

WHAT'S WITH THIS CHICK?
SO I THOUGHT, "I WANT TO STICK IT TO THESE LOSERS AND MAKE THEM GROVEL."
CHIL-CHUCK!


OH!
I WAS ANXIOUS BECAUSE SOMEONE SAID I WAS HOLDING YOU BACK.
I'M SOR—

GIMME A ROPE.


I AM UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, AND IT'S LONELY.

EVERYONE HAS THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAK-NESSES.
DRAINING THE BLOOD

YOUR MAGIC WILL BE OUR BIGGEST ASSET.
I DIDN'T WANT TO TIRE YOU OUT ON THESE SURFACE LEVELS.

THE DEEPER INTO THE DUNGEON WE GO, THE STRONGER THE MONSTERS WILL GET.

GO ON, CHIL-CHUCK. YOU TOO.

YOU CAN RELY ON US A BIT MORE, YOU KNOW.

I WANT TO COUNT ON YOUR STRENGTHS.
OTHER PEOPLE WILL HANDLE THE THINGS YOU AREN'T GOOD AT.

YOU'RE ALREADY SANE AGAIN!
PUT MORE FEELING INTO IT...

I THINK WE'RE REALLY LUCKY YOU CAME WITH US, MAR-CILLE.

.....
PUNI (SQUISH)
ぷに

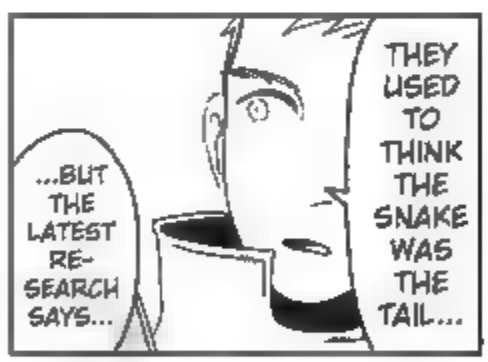
OM-ELETS!
MAYBE I'LL MAKE OMELETS TODAY.
WOW! THAT SOUNDS ALMOST NOR-MAL...

TO THINK WE'D GET A BIG BAT TOO.
WHAT AN UNEX-PECTED HAUL.

THE BODY AND HEAD ARE CHICKEN.
BUT THE SNAKE IS JUST THE TAIL, RIGHT?
NO.

BATS DON'T LAY EGGS.
THAT'S WHAT SNAKE EGGS ARE LIKE.

THEY'RE NOTH-ING LIKE CHICKEN EGGS.
ARE THESE REALLY BASILISK EGGS?
SURE THEY AREN'T BIG BAT EGGS?


...BUT THE LATEST RE-SEARCH SAYS...
THEY USED TO THINK THE SNAKE WAS THE TAIL...

PROFESSOR DRAKE
...WHEN IT'S CUT DOWN THE MIDDLE, THE CHICKEN DIES, BUT THE SNAKE LIVES.
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THAT NOW.

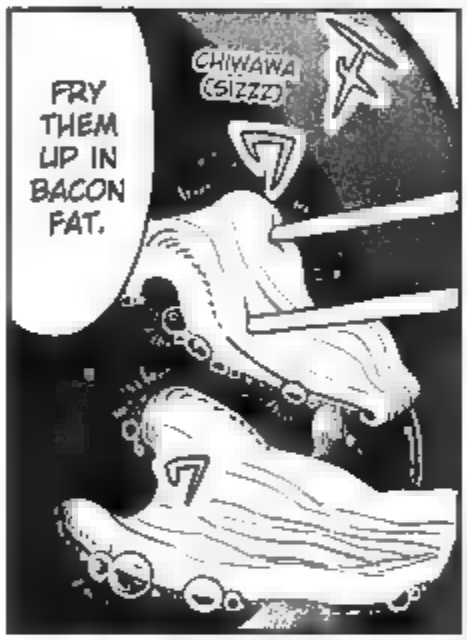
MAIN BODY
TAIL
THE CHICKEN...
...IS THE TAIL.
GAAAN (SHOCK)

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS ONE'S BRIGHTER.
IT STILL HAS ITS HEAD, SO IT'S THE ONE MARCILLE PICKED.

WHAT?
THE COLOR ON THIS ONE'S DIFFER-ENT.

JYARI
JYARI (SCRIT)

HM?


FRY THEM UP IN BACON FAT.
CHIWAWA (SIZZZ)

MINCE THE MAN-DRAKES.

HM?
MM-HM, MM-HM.

ONCE THEY'RE FLUFFY...
PON (TOSS)

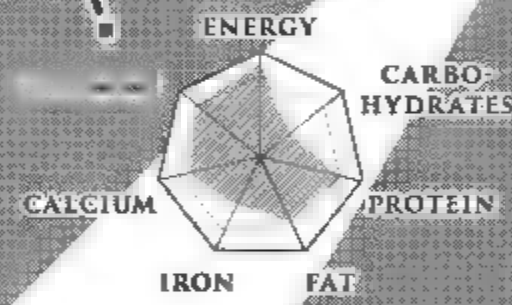
JYUWA (HISSSS)

POUR THE EGGS OVER THEM.
BUCHU (SPLUT)
THESE EGGS HAVE NO WHITES.

Mandrake and Basilisk Omelet

THEY'RE DONE!

WHOA!



Ingredients (Serves 1)

Mandrake	1 medium
Basilisk bacon (the nice, fatty stuff)	50 g
Basilisk egg	1
Salt and pepper	To taste
Ketchup	To taste

LETTING IT SCREAM MUST TAKE SOME SORT OF IMPURITY OUT OF IT.

MM-HM. IT'S GOOD.

MOGO CRUNCHO

THIS ONE DOESN'T TASTE BITTER. IT'S MELLOWER.

HM ...!

IT ISN'T A COOK-BOOK, OKAY!?

THANK YOU, MARCILLE.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND BOOK ARE WON-DERFUL.

...I WAS TOO FIXATED ON EFFICIENCY, AND I LOST SIGHT OF ITS TRUE ESSENCE.

TAKING A LITTLE TROUBLE TO IMPROVE THE FLAVOR IS A FUNDA-MENTAL OF COOKING.

I GUESS...

THIS IS A SMALL TOKEN OF MY THANKS.

SO CREACHO

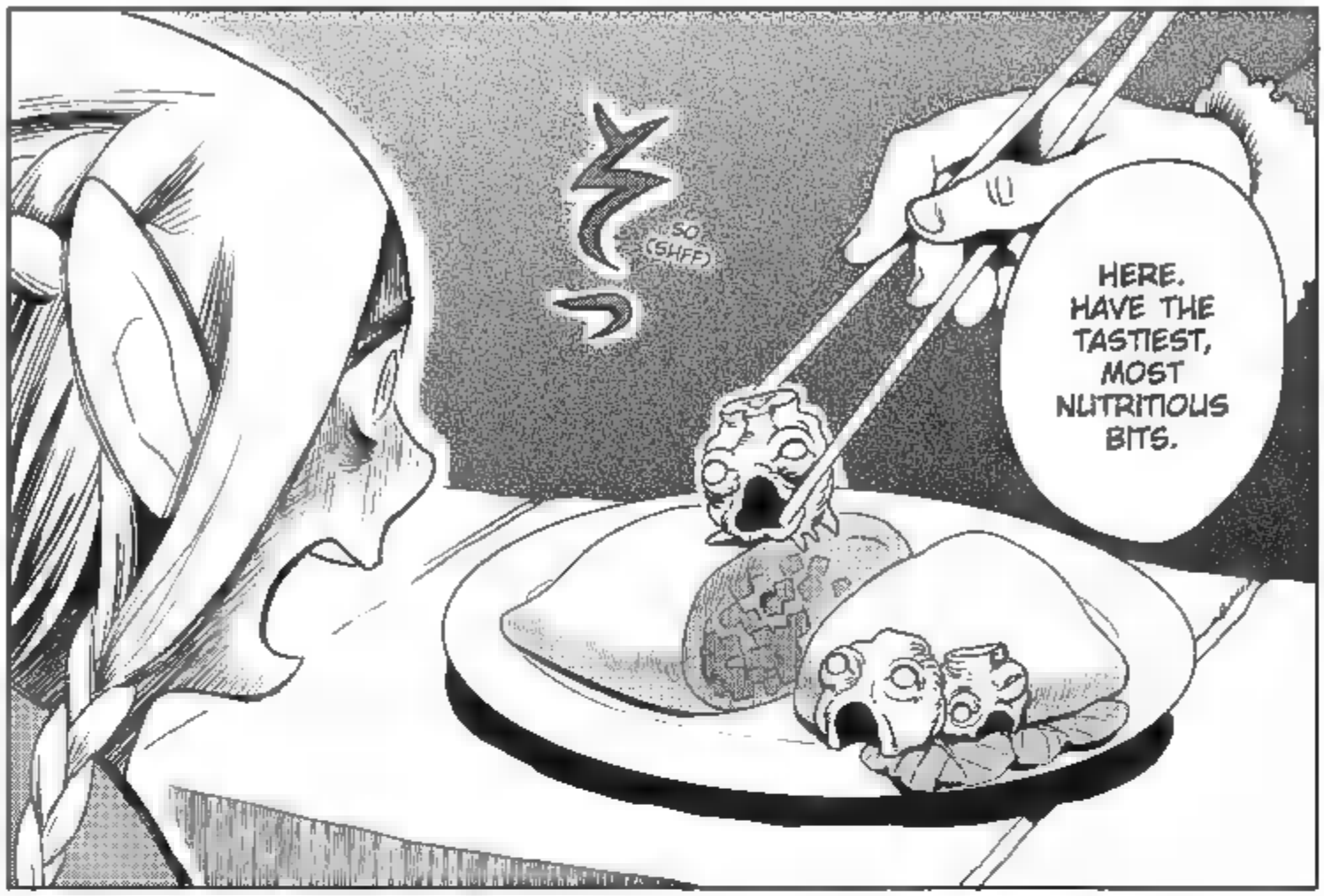
LISTEN TO ME!

YES, NICE TEXTURE.

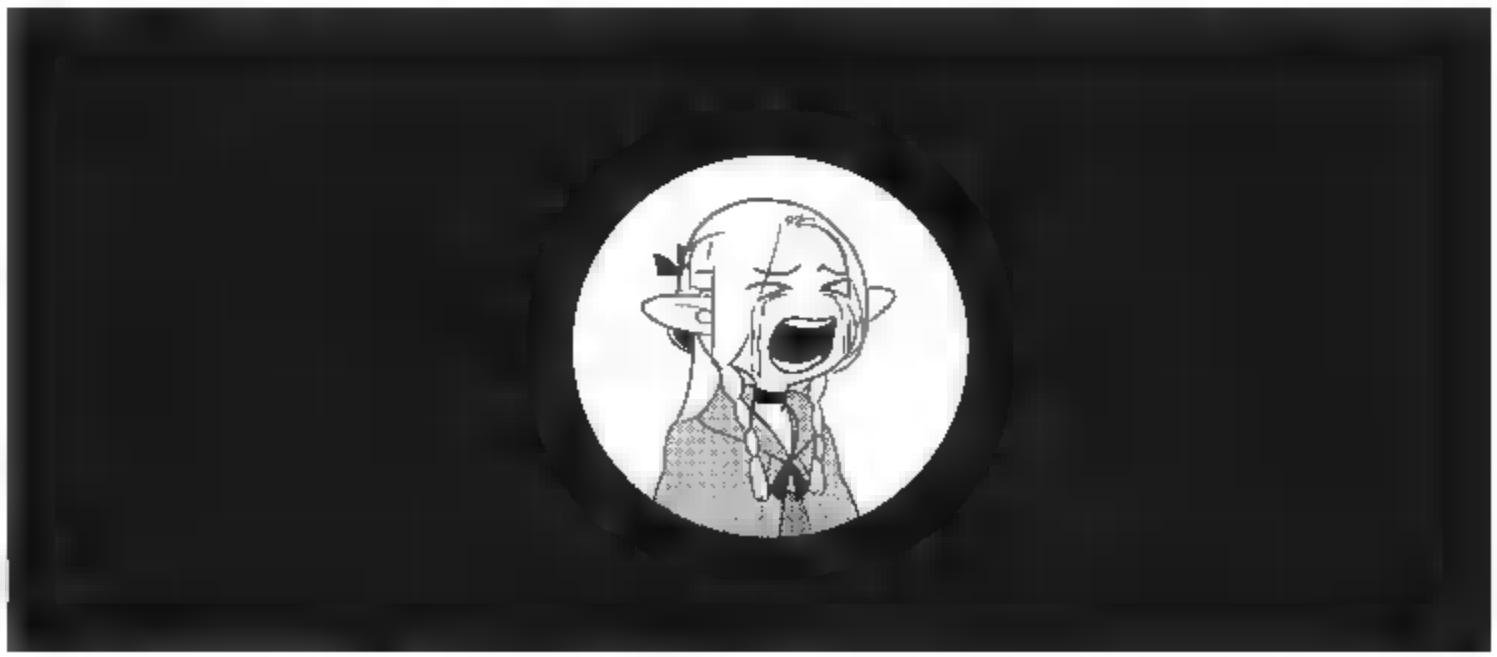
WOW, THIS IS REALLY GOOD.

I JUST...

AND THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO PROVE!


SO
(SHFF)
HERE. HAVE THE TASTIEST, MOST NUTRITIOUS BITS.

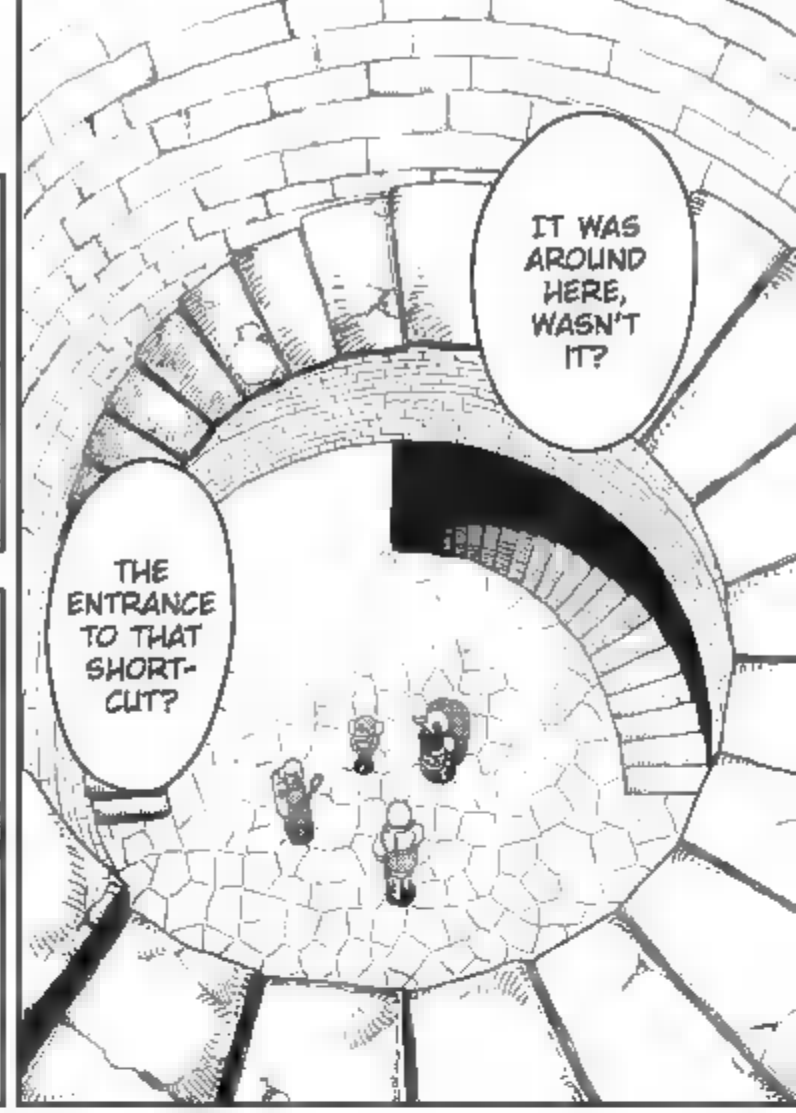
I'M SICK OF EATING MON-STERS!!
WELL, ISN'T THAT NICE?
I DON'T WANT THEM!



5. KAKIAGE

MARCILLE, LET ME BORROW YOUR STAFF A MINUTE.
EN-TRANCE?

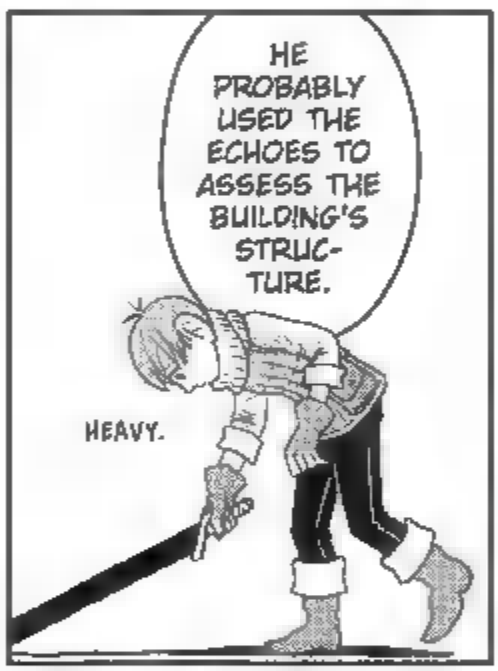
YOUR SWORD, THEN, LAIOS.
NO. YOU'RE GOING TO WHACK THINGS WITH IT.


THE ENTRANCE TO THAT SHORT-CUT?
IT WAS AROUND HERE, WASN'T IT?

GOON (WHANG)

GOON
ON
GOON
ON
ON

ZU (SKRR)
ズズズズ
GO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GO
ZU
RIGHT HERE.
ガコン
GAKON (KACHONK)
OOOOH!


HE PROBABLY USED THE ECHOES TO ASSESS THE BUILDING'S STRUCTURE.
HEAVY.

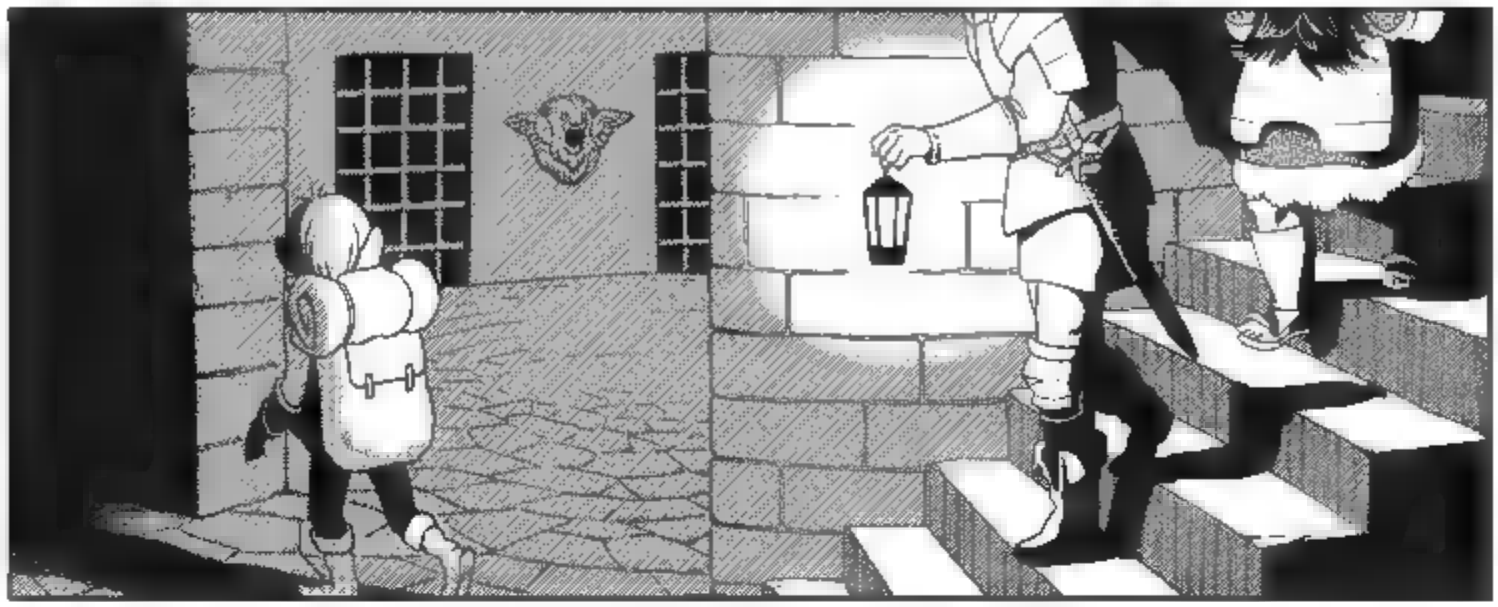
CHIL-CHUCK'S AN EXPERT AT LOCATING TRAPS AND OPENING LOCKS.
HE'S A HALF-FOOT, AND HIS RACE HAS SHARP SENSES.
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

??

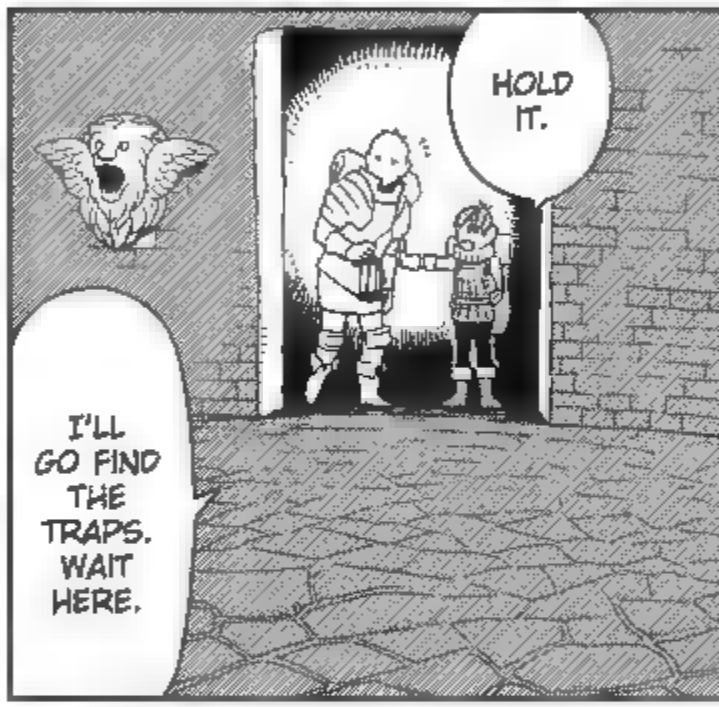
WHAT I HATE MOST...
...IS HAVING OTHER PEOPLE GET IN MY WAY WHEN I WORK.

DON'T MOVE UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...
...THERE ARE TONS OF TRAPS IN THERE.



HE'S LIGHT, SO HE DOESN'T SET OFF TRAPS EASILY.


HOLD IT.
I'LL GO FIND THE TRAPS. WAIT HERE.

YOU CAN STEP HERE, HERE, AND ON THIS TILE.
YES. YES.

HM.
MM-HM.

HMMMM.

YEEP!!
JAKO (SHUNK)
ZUSHI (STOMP)
KACHI (CLICK)
ずし
カチ
YOU'RE WAY OVER THE EDGE!
I TOLD YOU TO STEP ONLY WHERE I SAID TO STEP!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
JUST DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO D—
IF ONE OF THEM MOVES, ALL MY CALCU-LATIONS GO RIGHT OUT THE WIN-DOW!!
SOME TRAPS WORK TOGETHER; SOME AFFECT EACH OTHER...
DON'T CAUSE TROUBLE! DON'T TREAT THIS LIGHTLY!!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME!!
I DON'T LIKE THIS FIDDLY STUFF.

ZAN (SKASH)
SFX: GARA (RATTLE) GARA GARA GARA
WAI—
ZUN (STOMP)
AAAH!
ZUN
ZUN
カチッ
KACHI (CLICK)
GOOOOOOO (WHROOSH)

OIL...
MOST FIRE TRAPS HAVE OIL OR FUEL MECHA-NISMS NEAR THEM.
I'M REALLY NOT UP FOR A WHOLE ROASTED DWARF, THANKS.
I SEE. THERE REALLY ARE ALL SORTS OF TRAPS.
WHAT A FIERCE FIRE.
JUST MOVE YOUR FOOT ALREADY!!
DEEP-FRIED...
FRIED...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
ROASTED WHOLE?
HUH?
KAKIAGE!!!

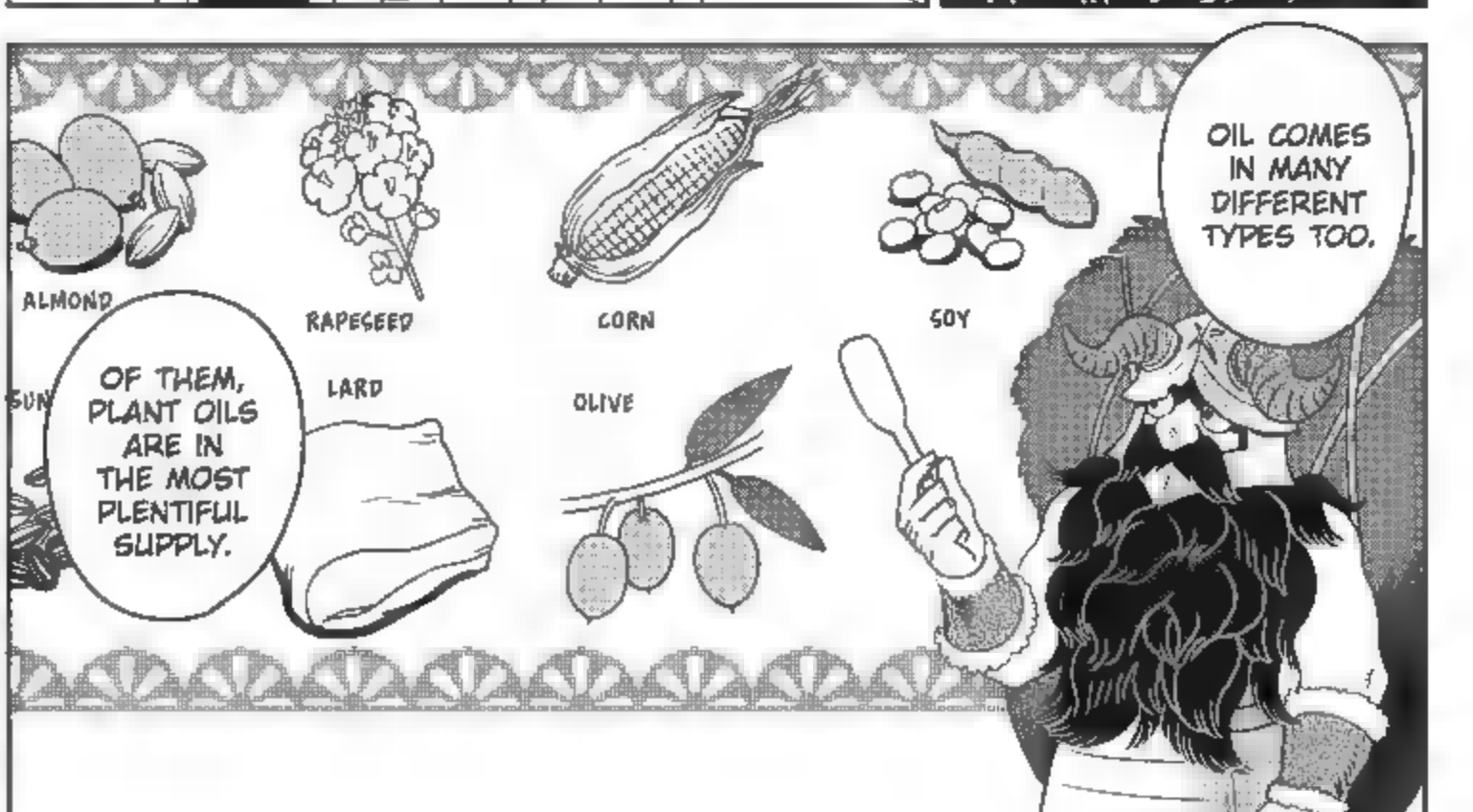
WHERE IS THIS OIL MECHA-NISM OF YOURS?

LET'S HAVE TEMPURA FOR LUNCH TODAY.

NO WAY...
YOU CAN'T EAT THAT STUFF.

HALF-FOOT CHILD...
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE AN OIL EXPERT.
I'M NOT A CHILD.

WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE CHECK, WILL WE?


ALMOND
RAPESEED
CORN
SOY
LARD
OLIVE
OF THEM, PLANT OILS ARE IN THE MOST PLENTIFUL SUPPLY.
OIL COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT TYPES TOO.

IN EXCHANGE, FROM NOW ON WHEN WE'RE AROUND TRAPS, YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!!

IF YOU DON'T RESPECT THOSE TERMS, I'M NOT HELPING.

...ALL RIGHT!!

UGHK...

ANYWAY, I WANT TO SEE IT.

IF IT ISN'T EDIBLE OIL, I'LL GIVE UP.

MINE IS DISABLING TRAPS AND OPENING LOCKS.

YOURS IS COOKING.

LISTEN UP.

WE'VE ALL GOT SPECIALTIES.

MARCILLE'S IS MAGIC.

IF NECESSARY, I'LL HELP YOU TOO.

I SWEAR.

I DON'T NEED IT!!

BUT IF YOU EVER HAVE A REQUEST OR WANT TO HELP COOK, I'D WELCOME IT.

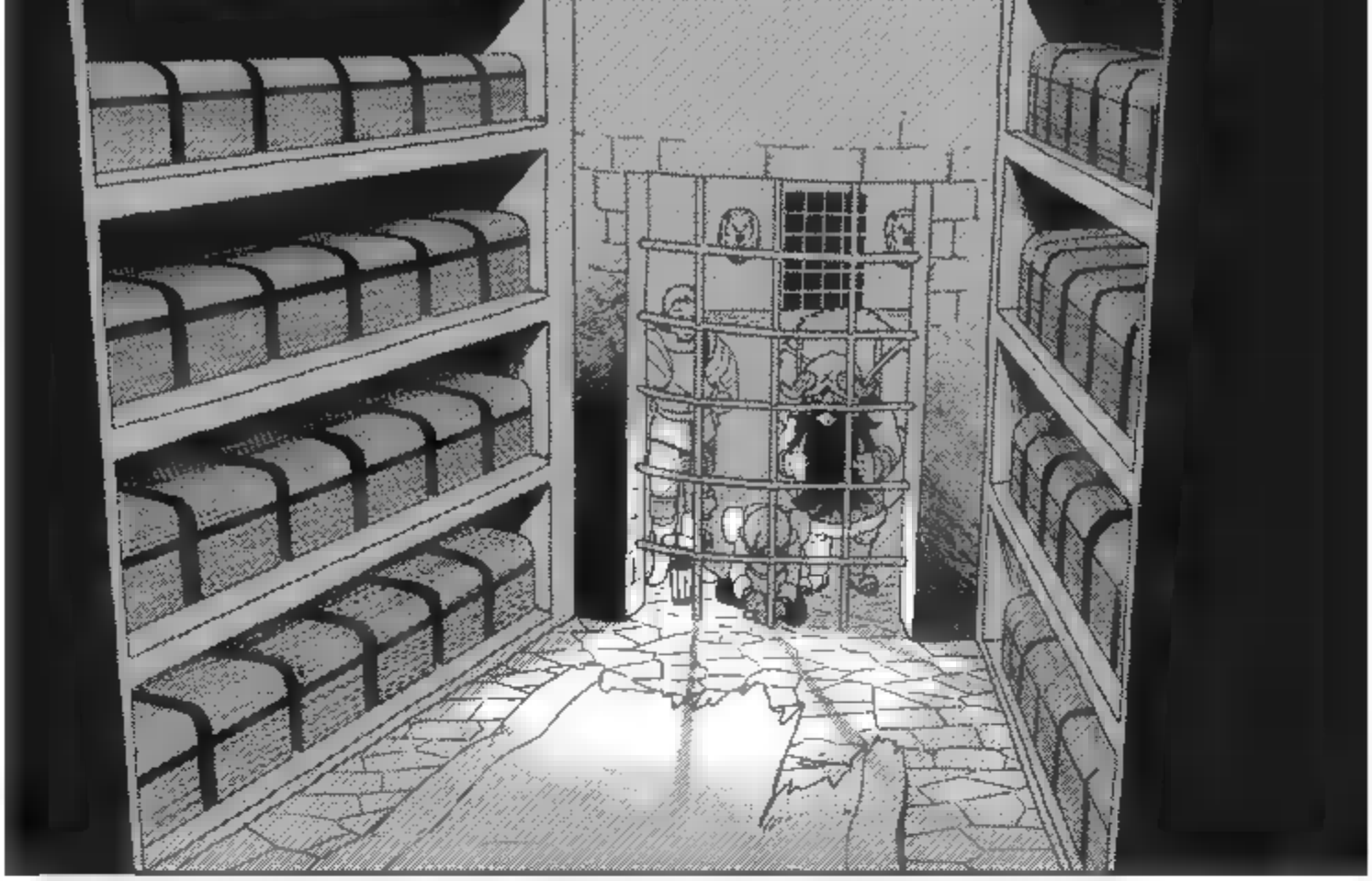
WHO WOULD EVER...?

...I'LL DO THAT, THEN.

GOOD.

I DON'T MEDDLE WITH YOUR COOKING METHODS.

SO YOU KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF MY JOB.

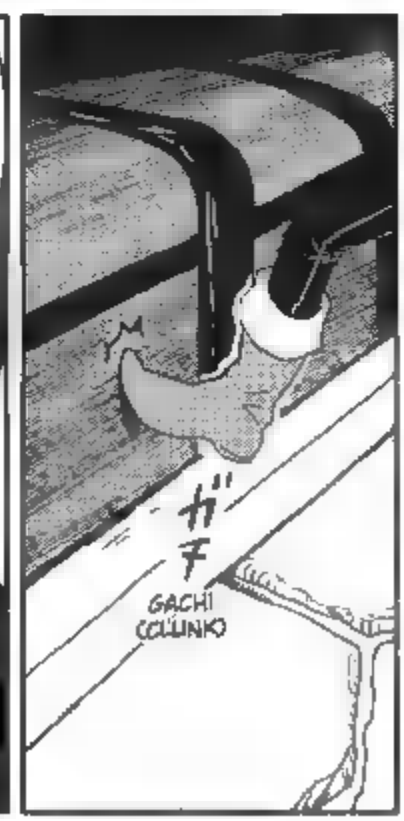


ALL THOSE TRAPS ARE PROBABLY TO PROTECT THIS PLACE FROM IN-TRUDERS.
NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT IN HERE ANYWAY.

TREA-SURE ROOM...
GARI (SCRAPE)
GARI

YOU GO OVER THERE.

IT'S FIXED TO THE FLOOR.
THIS MIGHT BE IT...
LET'S OPEN IT AND SEE.

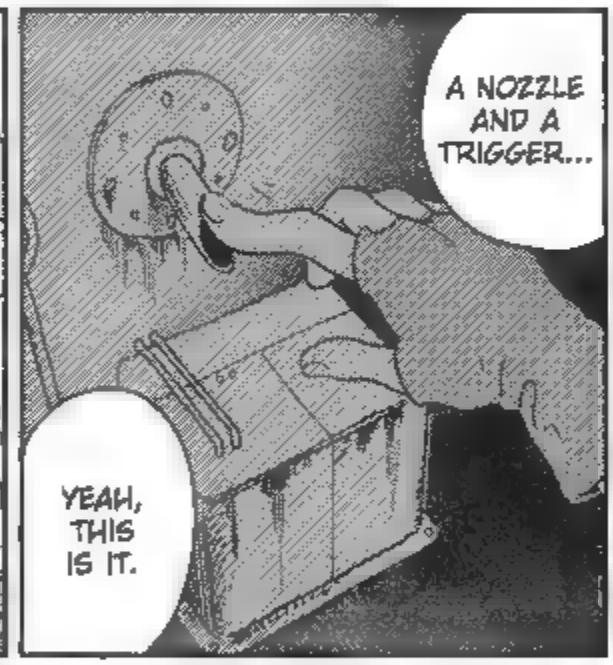

ガチ
GACHI (CLUNK)

HM.

ALL OUR LIVES ARE IN HIS HANDS. THE BURDEN ■ PROBABLY FRAYING HIS NERVES.
LOTS OF TRAPS KILL IN-STANTLY.

HE'S USUALLY THE MOST MATURE ONE HERE, BUT...

PI! (SKREEK)


A NOZZLE AND A TRIGGER...
YEAH, THIS IS IT.

MOZO (GROPE)

IT'S OPEN.

GYUU (TUG)
HUP!
KACHAN (CLANK)

RUN A THREAD THROUGH, CATCH IT, AND...

SU (SHUF)
MM.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HOLD THE POT UP.
HM?

THIS IS A NOZZLE...
...SO IF YOU PULL THIS TRIGGER, THE OIL MIGHT COME OUT.
トン
トン
TON (TAP) TON

WHERE'S THE OIL? HOW DO WE GET IT OUT?
I DON'T KNOW.

JIRI (INCH) JIRI
DON'T WORRY.
NO WAY! THIS IS PROBABLY BOILING OIL!
NO, I'M GONNA WORRY!

YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.
HUH !?

GU (YANK)
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME!!

.....

I FELT REALLY BAD FOR HIM THAT TIME...
I GOT CAUGHT BY ONE OF THESE ONCE.
YOU DON'T DIE RIGHT AWAY, AND THAT MAKES IT WORSE.
IT'S FINE. JUST DO IT.

BUSHU (PSHOO)
HOT!!
HOTTT!
POTO (PLIP)
PI (SPLIT)
PI
HM.
'BOUT 180 DEGREES. A GOOD TEMPERATURE FOR FRYING.
WHAT, YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT SORT OF THING?
I'M FINE.
YOUR THUMB'S IN IT!
SHUUU (HISSS)
WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?
OH MAN...
ARE YOU OKAY, SENSHI?

YOU'RE KIDDING.
YEP, THIS IS OLIVE OIL.

THIS FLAVOR ...
PERORI (CLICK)

THIS AROMA ...

YOU THINK?
IT'S NOT SO STRANGE TO FIND IT USED IN A TRAP.

OLIVE OIL IS RELATIVELY EASY TO PRODUCE...
...AND I HEAR THIS USED TO BE AN OLIVE-GROWING REGION.

CAN'T WE USE THAT FALLING-BLADE TRAP TO CUT UP THE MEAT?

SAY...

IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FRY WITH THIS.

THOSE THINGS DON'T ALWAYS COME DOWN IN THE SAME SPOT!

I TOLD YOU, DON'T MESS AROUND IN MY FIELD—

YOU IDIOT!!

DO YOU WANT TO GET CUT IN HALF!?

ZAA (SHIIIIP)

I THINK IT WAS AROUND HERE...

HUH?

AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE TRAPS.

THEN I'LL LET YOU CUT THE MEAT.

ドス

DOSU (WHUMP)

I NEVER SAID THAT.

THAT WAS THE DEAL, REMEMBER?

COOKING IS MY FIELD, SO YOU'LL FOLLOW MY ORDERS HERE.

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE—

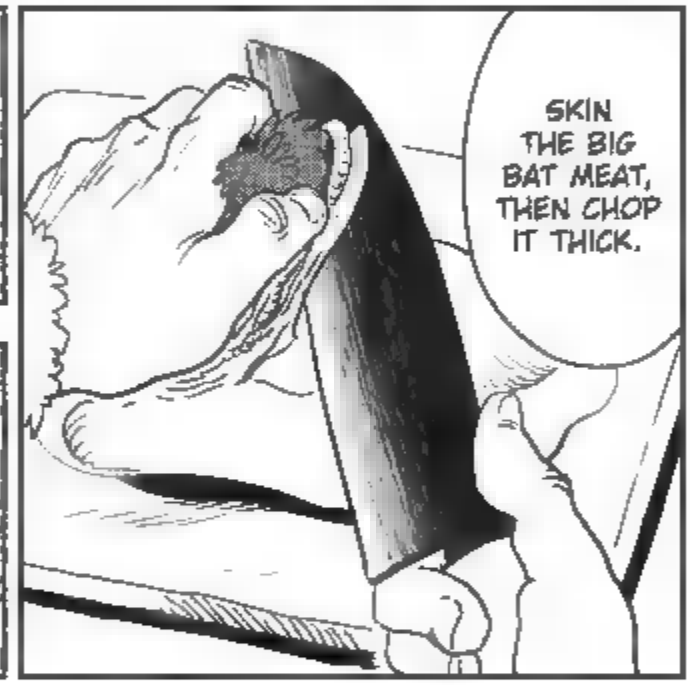
ZAN (SHUNK)
SA (SCOOT)
KYURARARA (SKREEKEEK)
SASA (SHUP)
PYON (HOP)
WHAT AM I DOING...?
HAAH...
ZAZAN (KASHUNK)

.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HURRY UP.

ZUSHI (HEAVY)
ず
し
NEXT, HEAT THIS OIL WITH THAT FIRE TRAP.

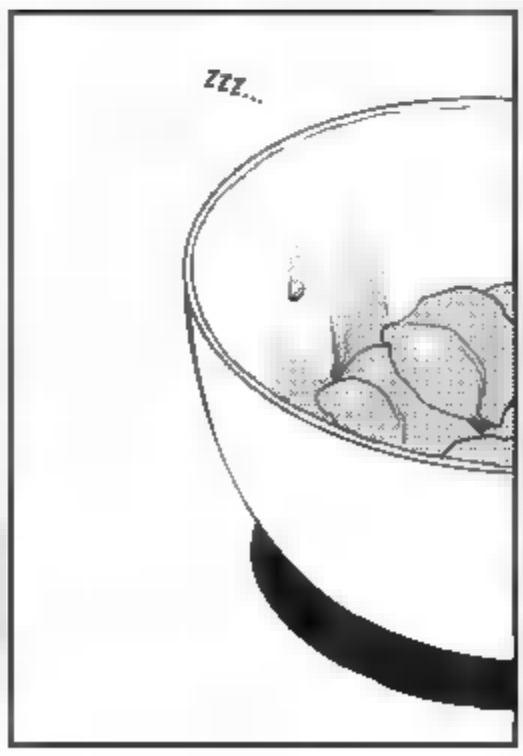
I CUT UP THE BIG BAT.
AH. AND YOU DID IT VERY WELL.

SUU (SLIT)
SCORE IT LIGHTLY...


SKIN THE BIG BAT MEAT, THEN CHOP IT THICK.

NYU
GUNYU (SQUISH)
...KNEAD THE SEA-SONINGS IN...

WHILE WE'RE WAITING, I'LL GET THE MANDRAKE KAKIAGE READY.

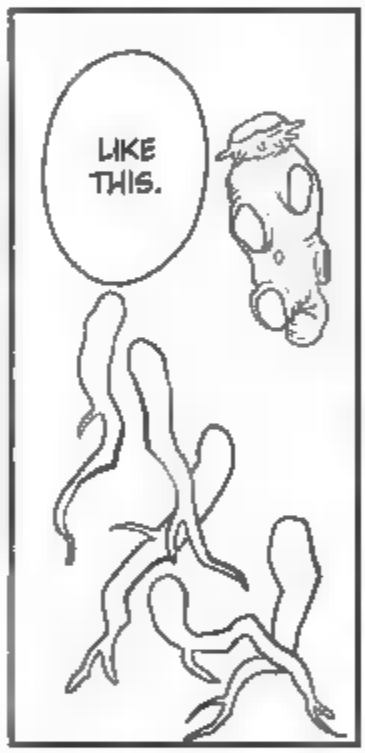

ZZZ...

...THEN LET IT REST A BIT.

I WANT TO TAKE THEM HOME WITH ME.
HURRY AND THROW THEM OUT.

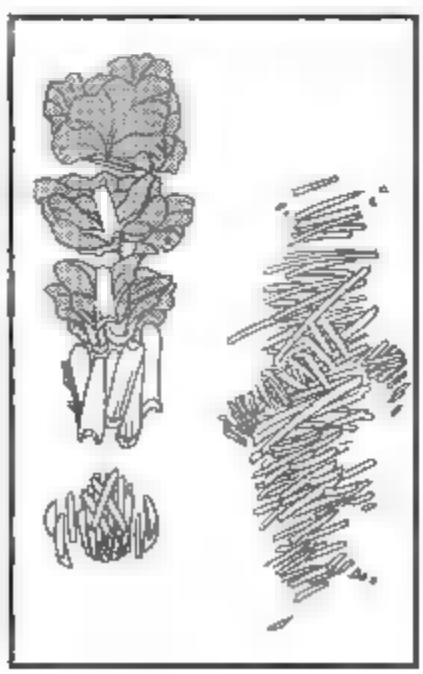
LOOK. THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY LIGHT, BUT THEY'RE STURDY.

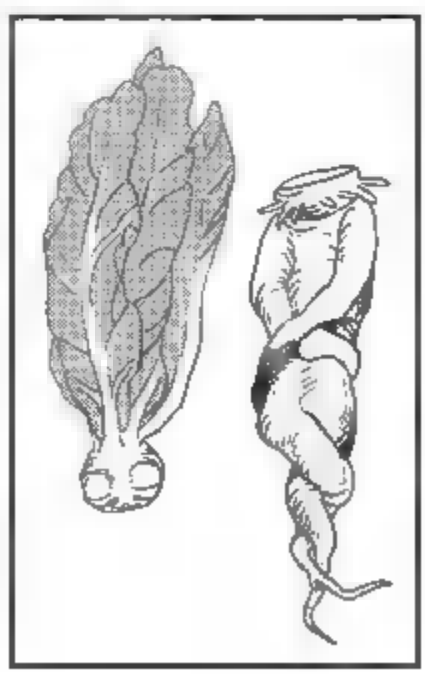
HAAH...
THERE WASN'T MUCH EDIBLE MEAT.
SUCH PRETTY BONES...


LIKE THIS.

IF YOU UNWRAP THEM A BIT, YOU CAN SNAP THEM OFF BY HAND.
...IT'S BEST TO TAKE THE LIMBS OFF FIRST.
POKI (SNAP)

WHEN PEELING MAN-DRAKES...





THE TORSO SHOULD BE PEELED WELL.
FOR THE LIMBS, JUST SHAVE OFF THE DARKER BITS.

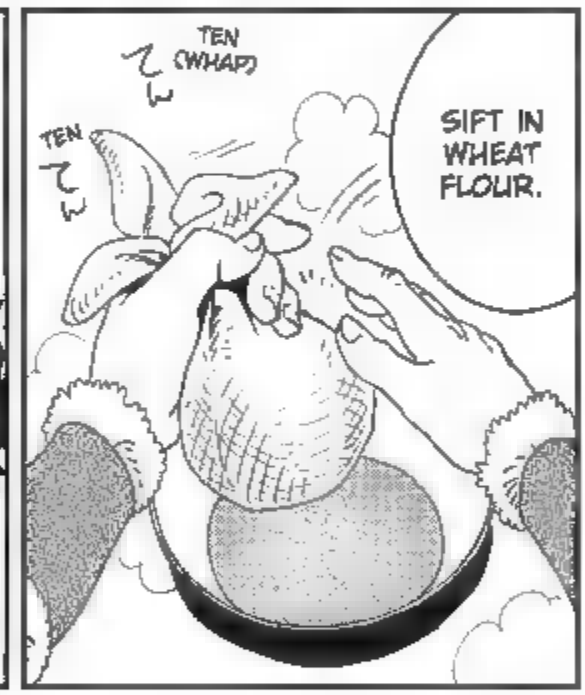
CHA
CHA (WHISK)

MIX A BASILISK EGG INTO WATER.

TSU (SLIT)
MAKING THE BATTER...

...THEN PUT THE MANDRAKES INTO THE BATTER.

MIX IT LIGHTLY SO THAT IT DOESN'T CLUMP UP...
SAKU
SAKU (STIR)


TEN (WHAP)
TEN
SIFT IN WHEAT FLOUR.

MAYBE LIKE THIS?
GOOD (WOOSH)

I HAVE NO IDEA.

HOW'S THE FIRE LOOK-ING?
LIKE I'D EVEN KNOW?
I'VE NEVER ADJUST-ED THE HEAT ON A TRAP BEFORE, DAMMIT.

SCOOP UP THE MANDRAKES, THEN PUT THEM INTO THE OIL.
SHAWAWAWA
HM. PERFECT RIGHT THERE, I'D SAY.
NU (LOOM)
LET'S SEE.
SHUWAWAWA (SIZZLE)
PI (PLIP)
PI
BORO (CRUMBLE)
IS IT READY?
OOPS.
JI (STARE)
SHUWAWAWA
GOT THAT!?
O-OKAY.
ONCE THEY'RE FRIED UP ENOUGH TO HOLD TOGETHER, TURN 'EM OVER.
ARGH, IT BURNED.
MAYBE THE FIRE'S TOO LOW?
ZUSHI (HEAVY)
BO (FLARE)
DRAT, DRAT, DRAT.
RATS. I GUESS IT WAS A LITTLE TOO SOON.

BUT FIRE TRAPS ARE YOUR FIELD.
FIRE, MAYBE, BUT HOW LONG TO FRY STUFF IS A COOKING THING.

HOW'S IT GOING?
IT'S NOT. SWITCH WITH ME.

THEY SHOULD BE ABOUT READY.

THEN I GUESS IT'S NOT A TRAP THING.
ちら
CHIRA (GLANCE)

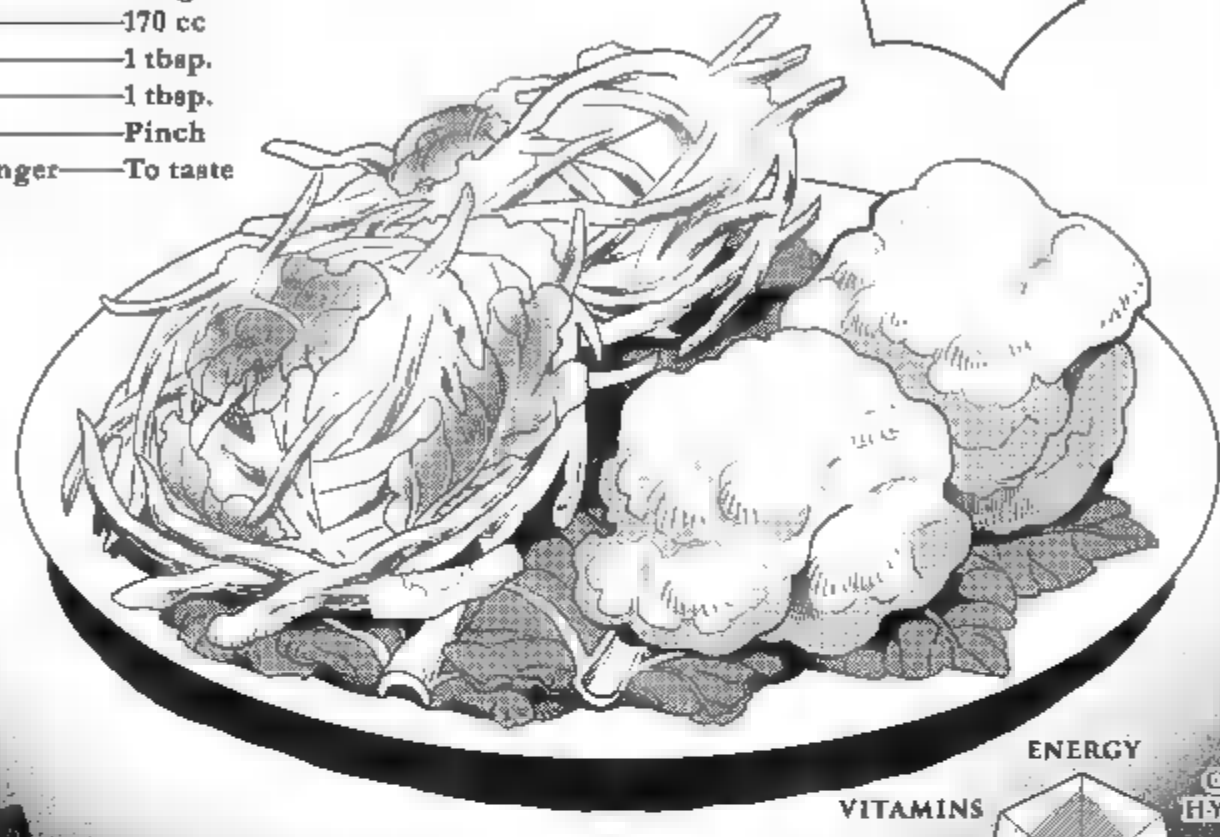
IF THE FIRE'S LOW, THEY GET SLOPPY.
IF IT'S TOO HIGH, THEY BURN IN SECONDS.

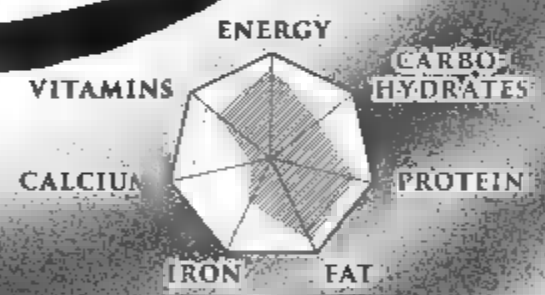
THE COLOR'S PERFECT.

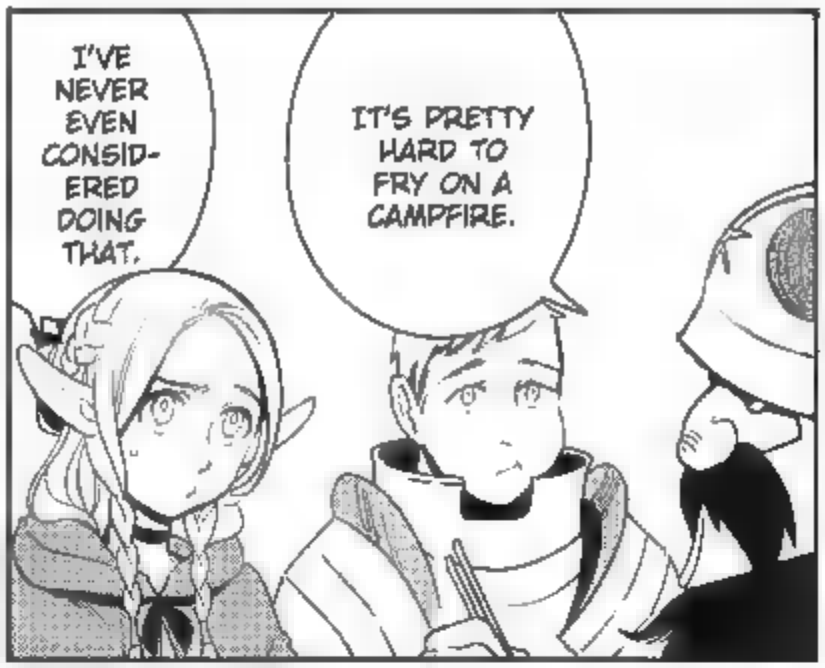
Mandrake Kakiage and Big Bat Tempura

Ingredients (Serves 4)

Mandrake	3 medium
Big bat breast meat	400 g
Basilisk egg	1
Soft flour	150 g
Water	170 cc
Soy sauce	1 tbsp.
Sake	1 tbsp.
Salt	Pinch
Garlic and ginger	To taste






I'VE NEVER EVEN CONSID-ERED DOING THAT.
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO FRY ON A CAMPFIRE.

YOU NEED TO FRY FOODS FAST AT THE RIGHT TEMPERA-TURE.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE FIRE WAS GOOD.
THEY COME OUT NICE AND CRISP THAT WAY.

YOU'LL DIE FOR SURE! I MEAN IT!
"CONVENIENT," HE SAYS...
LISTEN, DON'T TRY DOING THIS WHEN I'M NOT HERE!

I WALK AROUND HERE ALL THE TIME...
...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH A CONVE-NIENT ROOM EXISTED.
KOFF

...I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK THIS PLACE ON MY OWN.
IT'S A SHAME THAT ONCE WE PART WAYS...
.....

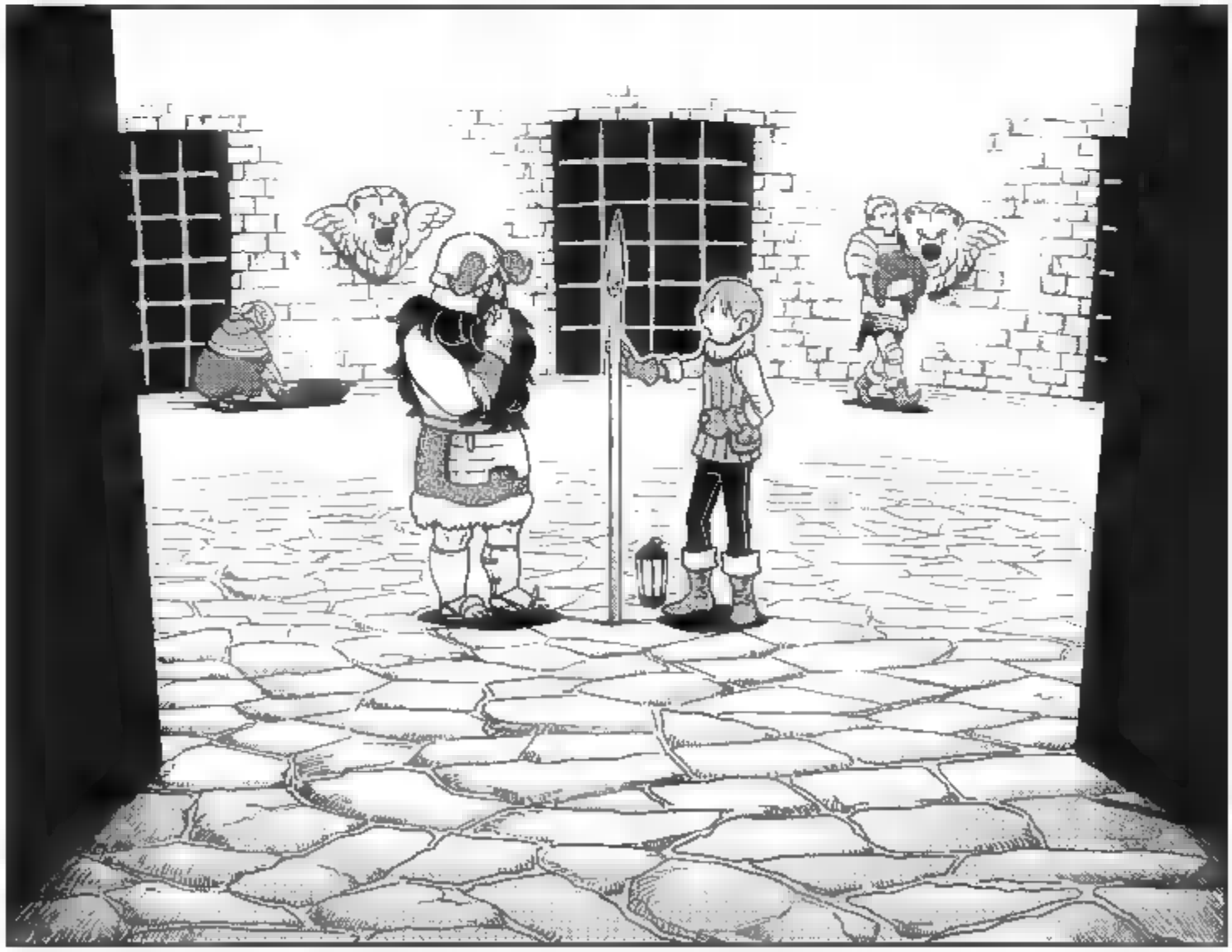
IT'S REALLY ...
...TRULY WONDER-FUL.

I KNOW.
I CAN'T MATCH YOUR SKILL WITH TRAPS, CHILCHUCK.

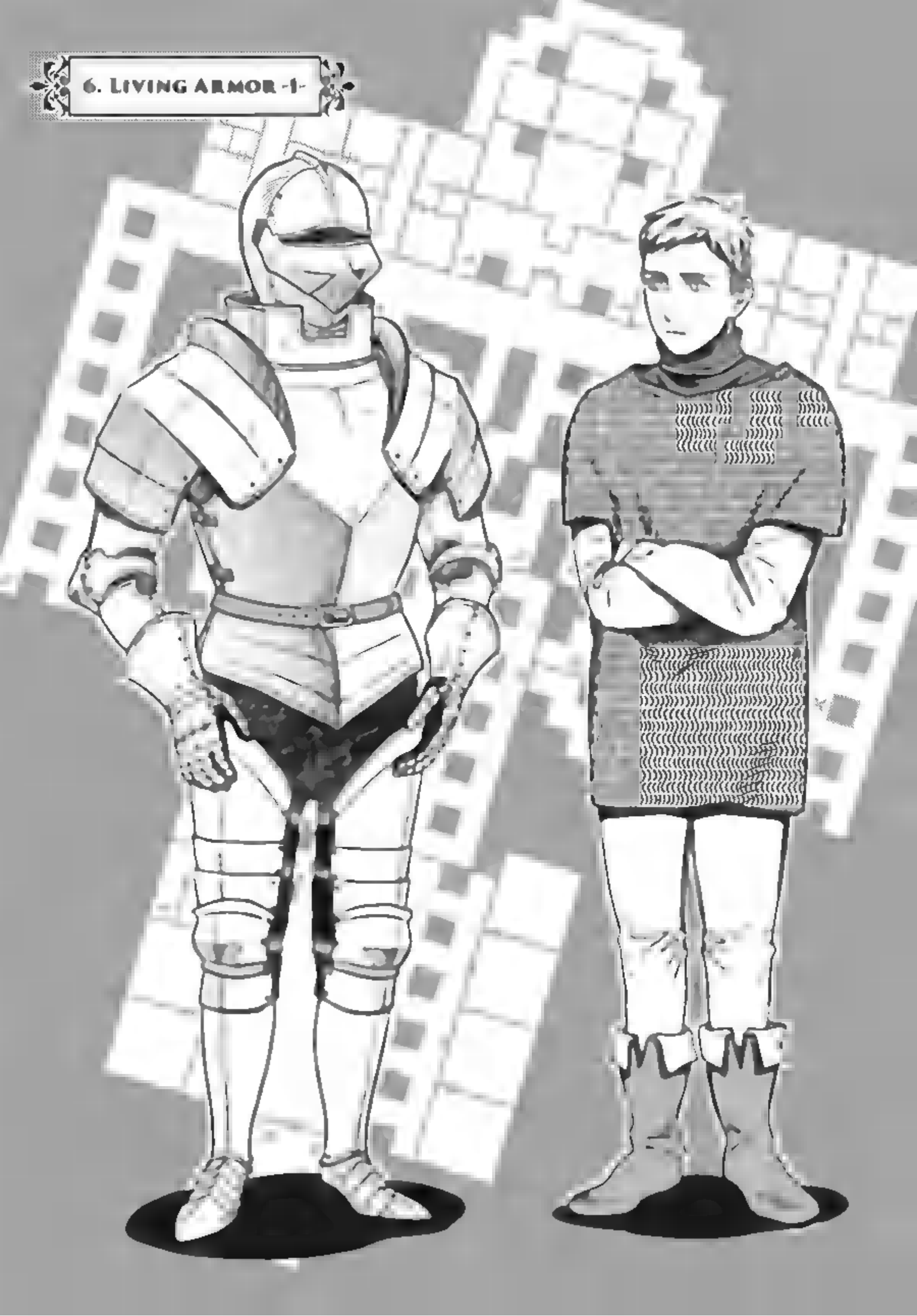
WELL.
YOU DID TEACH ME HOW TO COOK.

YOU'RE SURE?
I DON'T PARTIC-ULARLY WANT TO, BUT...
IT'S YOUR FIELD...

...FINE!
IN OUR SPARE TIME, I'LL TEACH YOU A LITTLE ABOUT TRAPS.



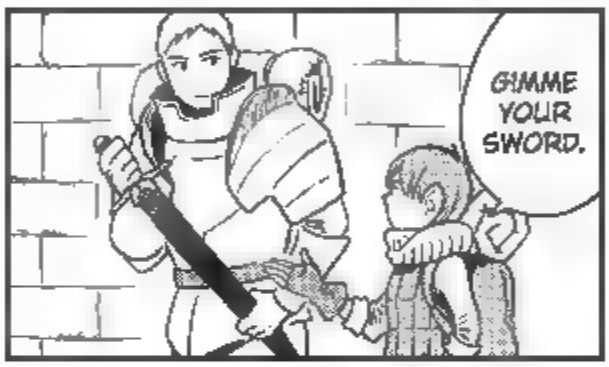
6. Living Armor -1-



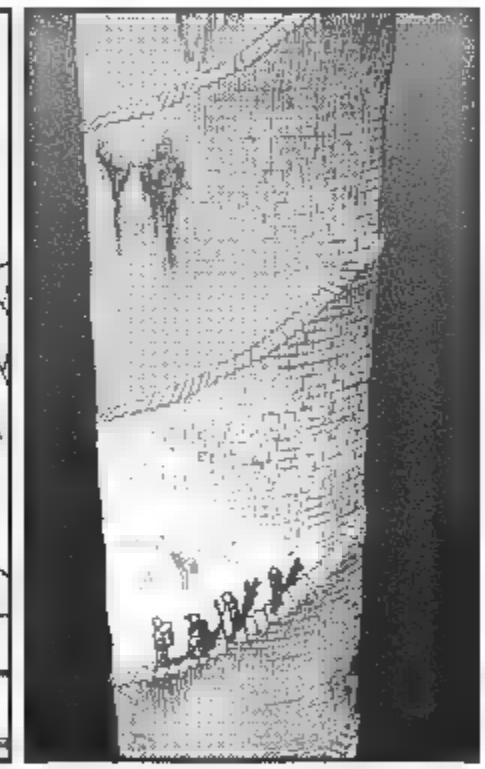
IN MODERATION, FATIGUE MAKES FOOD TASTE BETTER.
"IN MODERATION," YES.

SURE, IT'S A SHORT-CUT...
...BUT IF IT'S ALL STAIRS, IT'S TWICE AS TIRING.

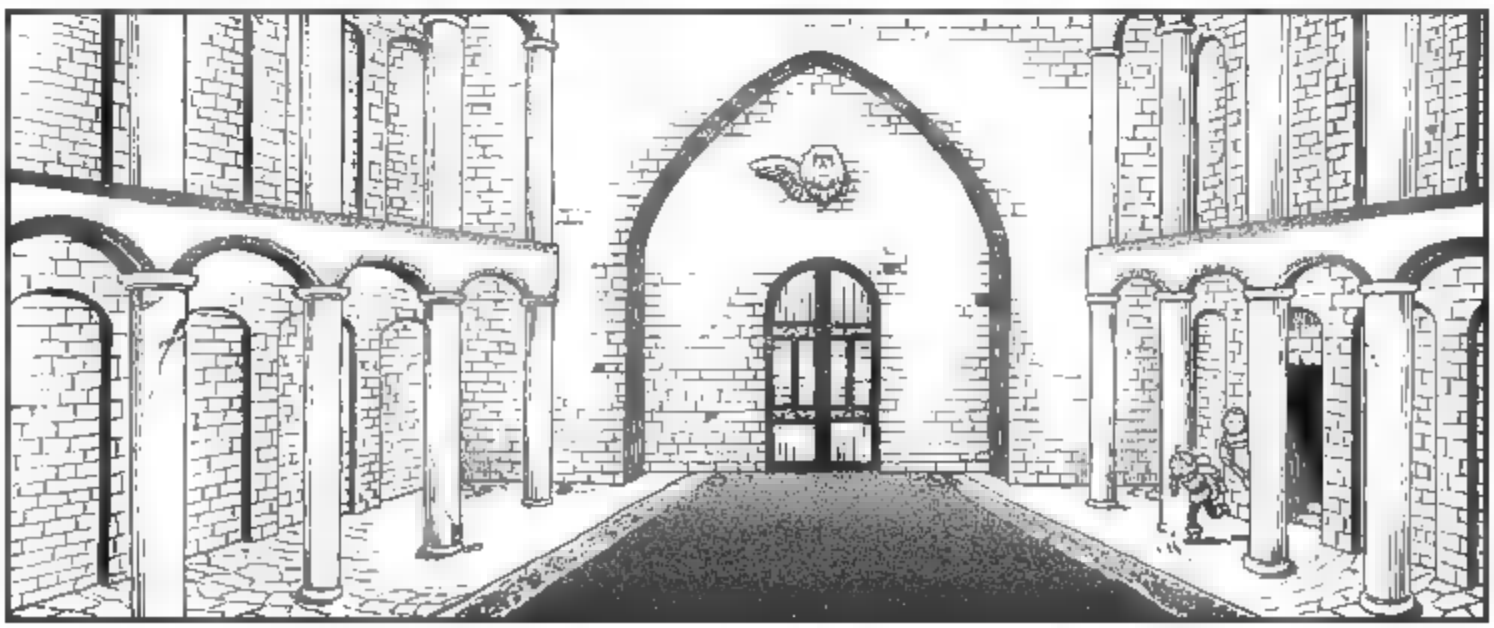
ARGH, WHAT A PAIN.

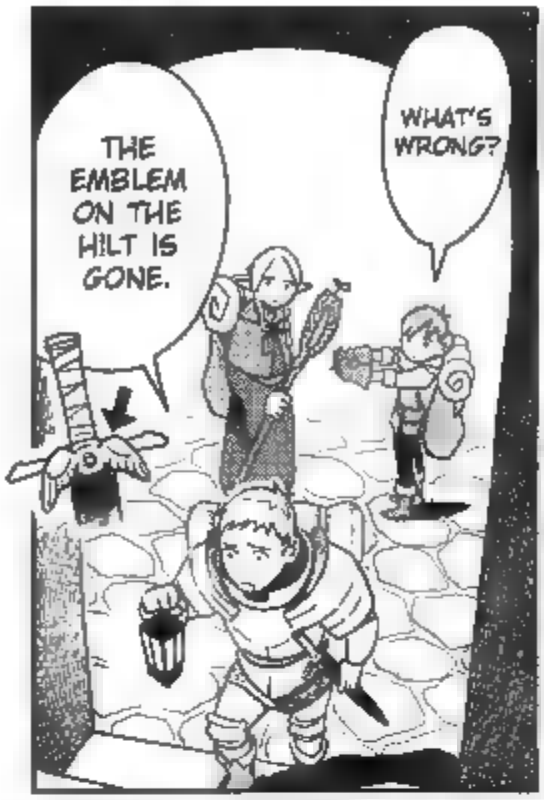

GIMME YOUR SWORD.

IT'S A DEAD END.

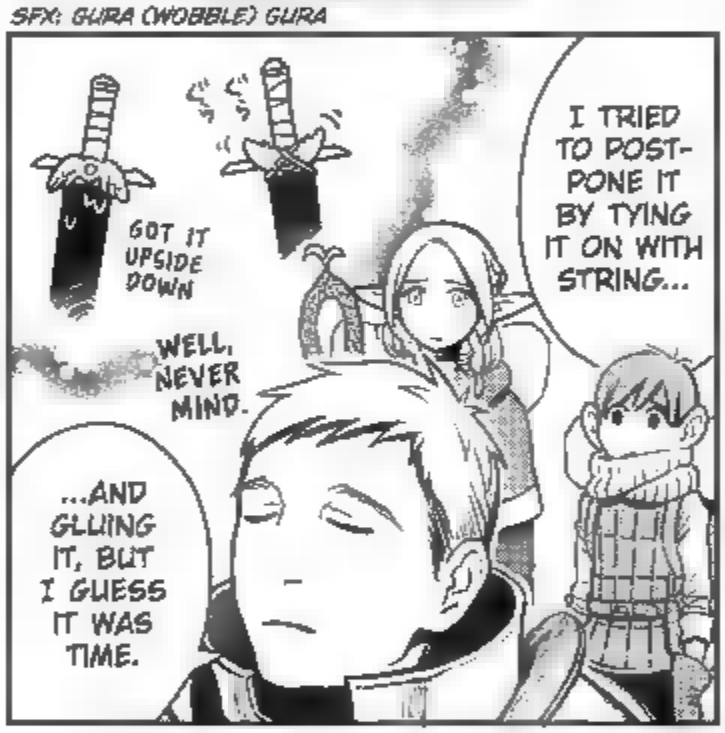


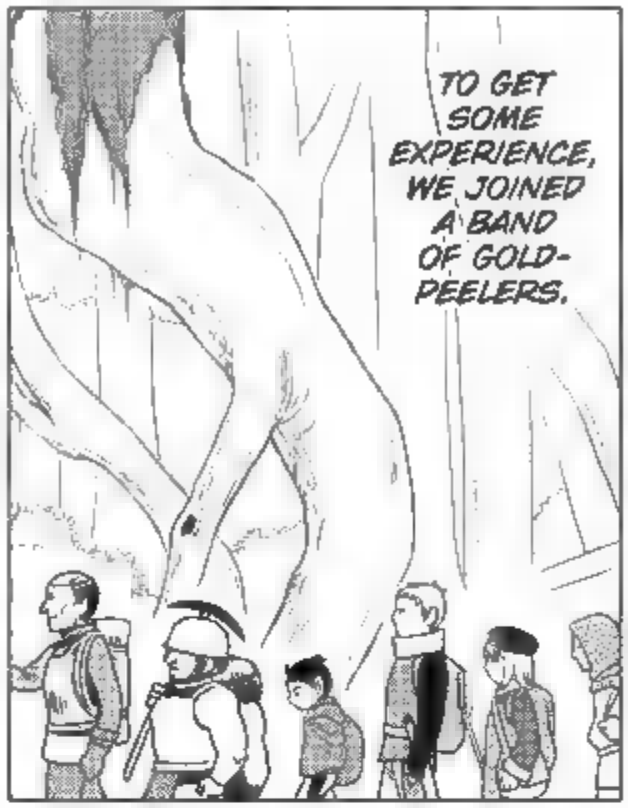
GATSUN
GATSU (WHACK)
THERE'S A BUTTON AROUND HERE...





SFX: GURA (WOBBLE) GURA




TO GET SOME EXPERIENCE, WE JOINED A BAND OF GOLD-PEELERS.

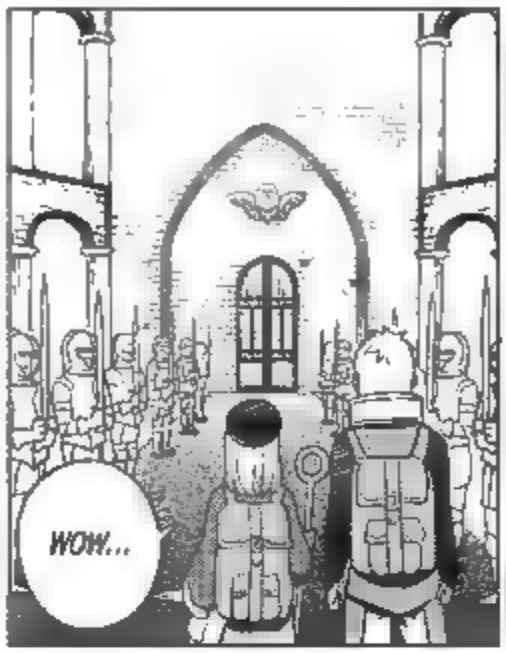
IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO. WE WERE JUST STARTING OUT.

HMM...
MOST OF THIS AREA'S BEEN PEELED ALREADY.

THIS WHOLE CASTLE USED TO BE COVERED IN GOLD. THEY TURNED A PROFIT BY STRIPPING IT OFF.
"GOLD-PEELERS"?

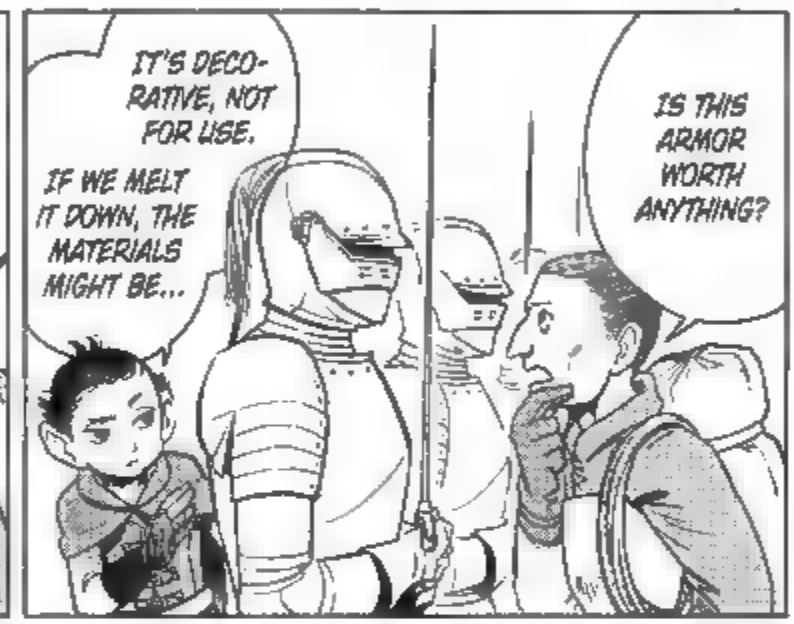
YEAH, BUT... WE CAN'T TURN BACK ON OUR OWN EITHER.
BIG BROTHER, THE CASTLE'S STILL TOO DANGEROUS FOR US.

LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING INSIDE.


WOW...

どや
DOYA (TROMP)
DOYA
どや

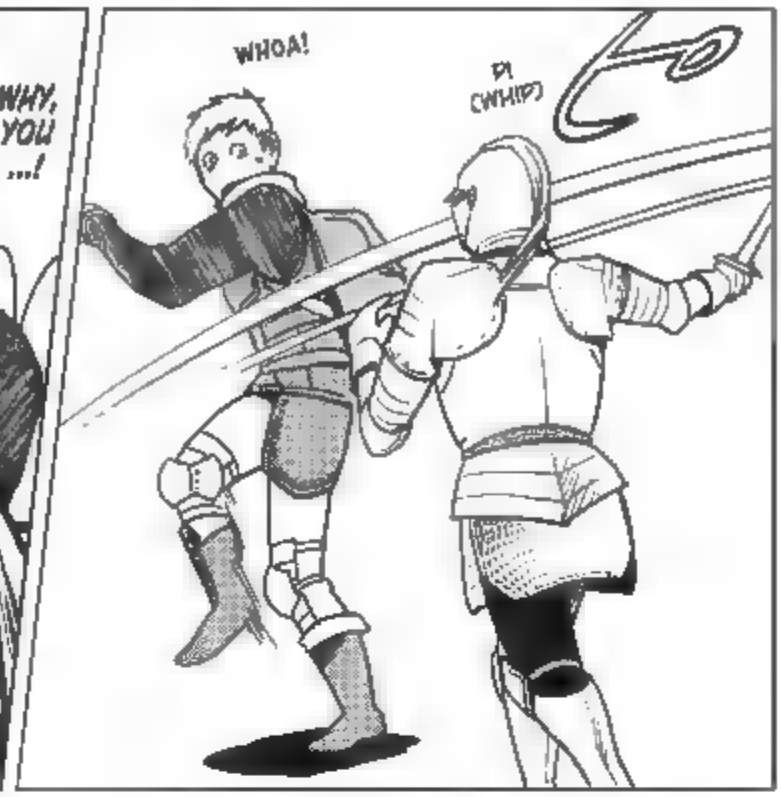
ZU (SHLINK)


IT'S DECO-RATIVE, NOT FOR USE.
IF WE MELT IT DOWN, THE MATERIALS MIGHT BE...
IS THIS ARMOR WORTH ANYTHING?

NUU (LOOM)
ぬう
UH...
C'MON, FALIN, RUN!
IT'S A MON-STER!
AW!!
THE ARMOR MOVED!

BYU
(WHISH)
BOKIN
(SNAP)

WHY, YOU ...!


WHOA!
BI
(WHIP)

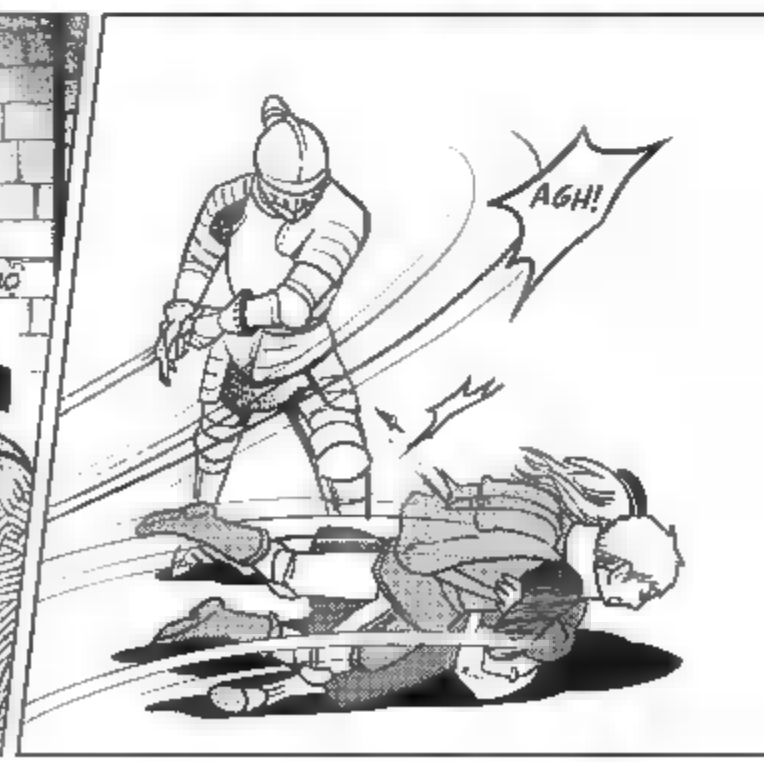
SWORD ...

NOT GOOD...

WAAH!

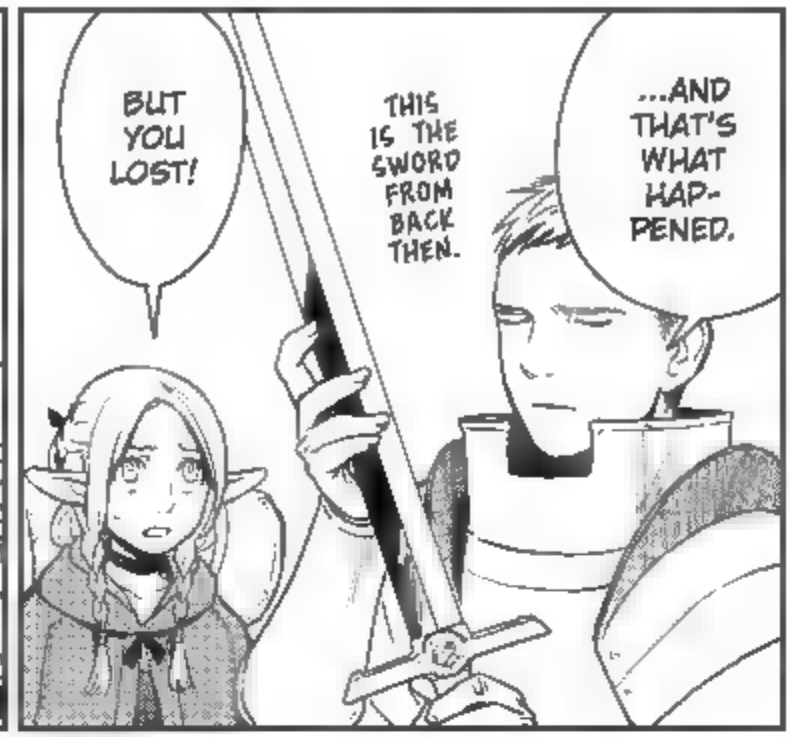
AAGH!
GACHA
GACHA
(RATTLE)

GORO
(ROLL)
GORO
DO
(THUD)

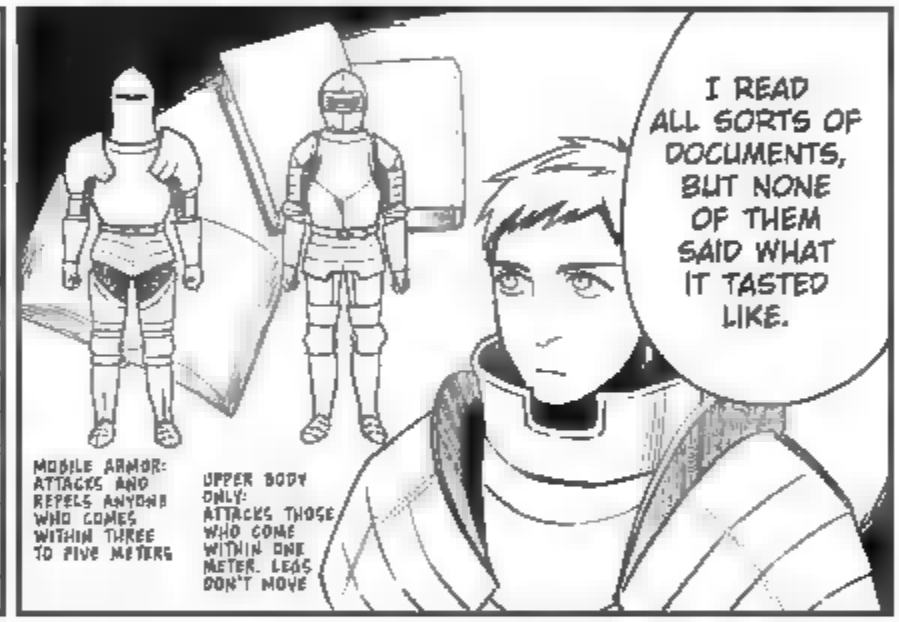

AGH!

AH! AAAAH!
!
SURUN (SLIP)
GUWA (LUNGE)
I...
I DID IT!
GAKIN (CLANG)
BIG BRO!
HUH ...?
DO (SHUNK)

I'D NEVER DIED BEFORE, SO FOR A WHILE, JUST LOOKING AT ARMOR SCARED ME.
WAAH!
HUH...
SO I DID A LOT OF RE-SEARCH INTO LIVING ARMOR.


BUT YOU LOST!
THIS IS THE SWORD FROM BACK THEN.
...AND THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT TASTES LIKE?
HOW WOULD YOU COOK IT, SENSHI?


I READ ALL SORTS OF DOCUMENTS, BUT NONE OF THEM SAID WHAT IT TASTED LIKE.
MOBILE ARMOR: ATTACKS AND REPELS ANYONE WHO COMES WITHIN THREE TO FIVE METERS
UPPER BODY ONLY: ATTACKS THOSE WHO COME WITHIN ONE METER. LEGS DON'T MOVE

UH...
I KNOW, BUT THE LEATHER FASTENERS, SAY...

IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO HUNT OTHER MON-STERS.
TANNED HIDE IS HARD TO EAT.
I HEARD YOU CAN EAT LEATHER SHOES IF YOU COOK THEM RIGHT.

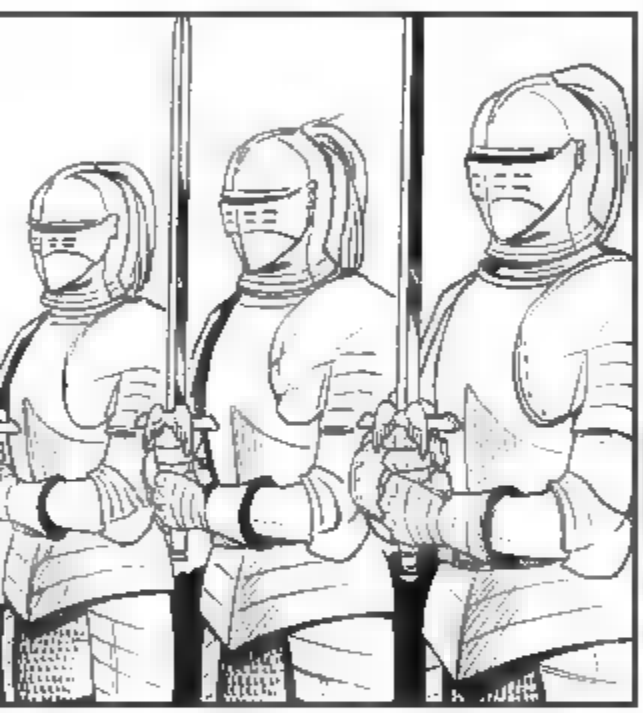
LIVING ARMOR'S CON-TROLLED BY MAGIC. IT'S NOT ACTUALLY ALIVE.

HUH?
ARMOR'S NOT EDIBLE. YOU KNOW THAT.

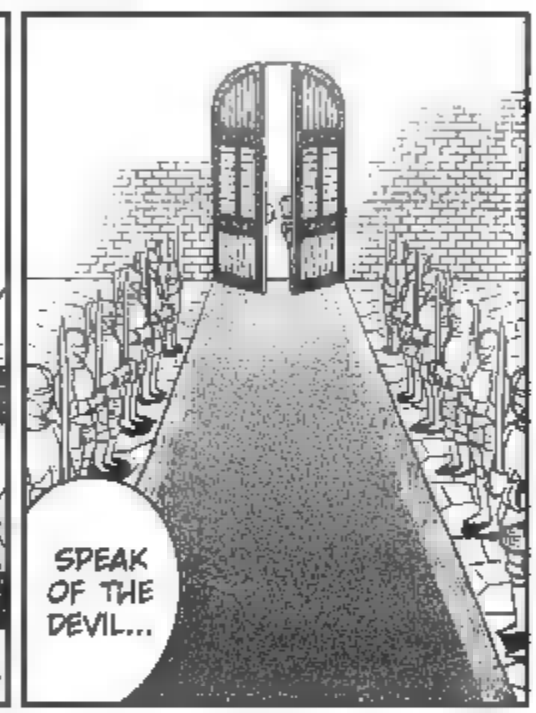
COME ON, LET'S GO.
GIIIII (CREAK)

I SEE...
SO YOU CAN'T EAT LIVING ARMOR.

NO, I DON'T WANT THAT.
IF YOU WANT TO EAT ARMOR THAT BADLY, BOIL YOUR OWN.
KON (TUNK)



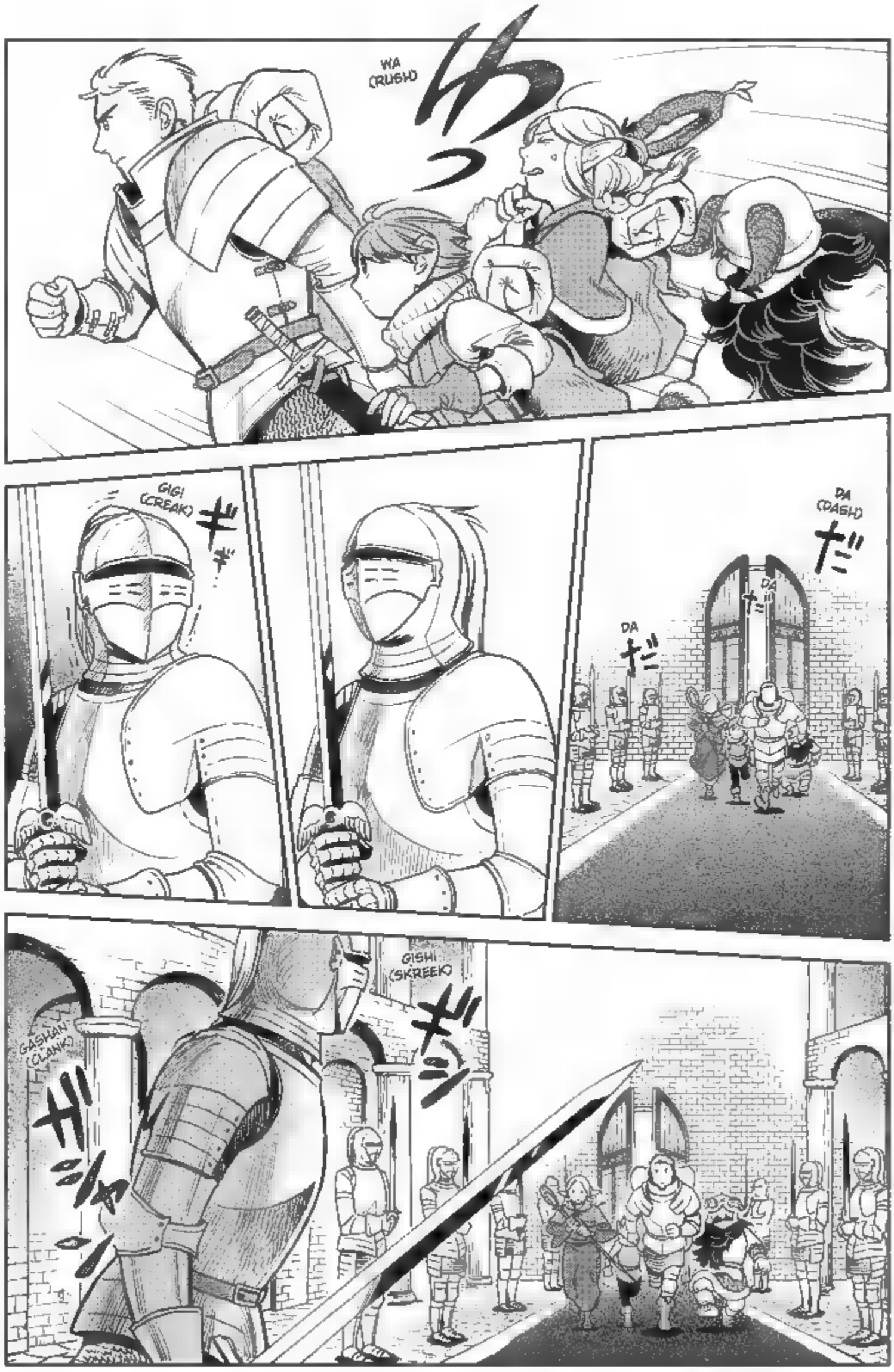
I'D RATHER NOT FIGHT THEM NOW.


SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

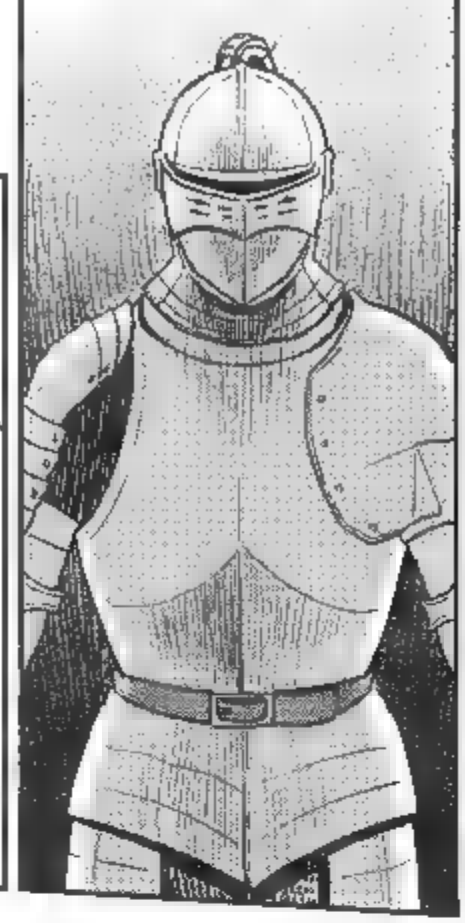
GOGOGO (RMBL)
WE DON'T KNOW WHICH ARMOR WILL MOVE.
BE CARE-FUL.
READY, AND...

TRUE ...
IS EVERYONE UP FOR THAT?
I'M FINE.

COULD WE JUST RUN PAST?
THEY'RE SLOW, SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHAKE THEM OFF.


WA (CRUSH)
GIGI (CREAK)
DA (DASH)
DA
DA
GASHAN (CLANK)
GISHI (SKREEK)

I-IT'S HERE!
I'VE GOT IT.



ZUII (LOOM)
!

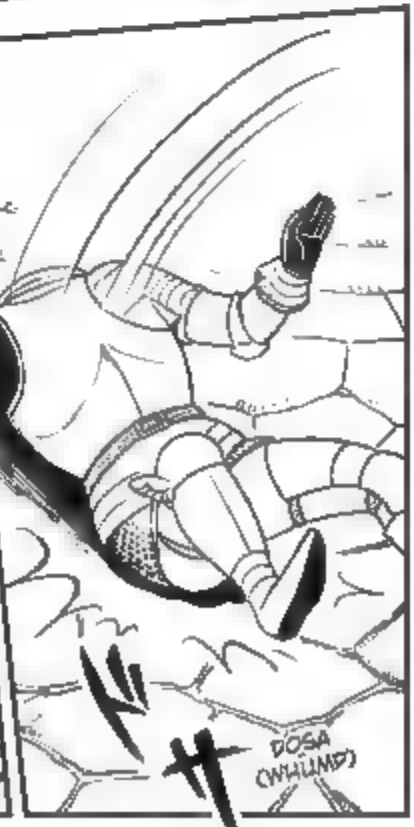
SUPAN (FLIP)

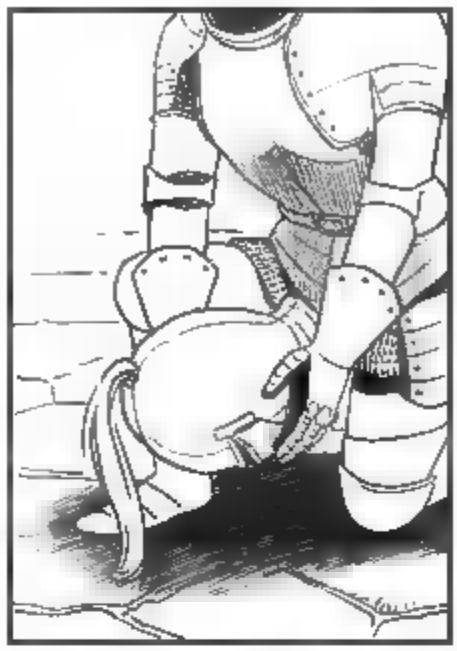
DOSU (SHUNK)

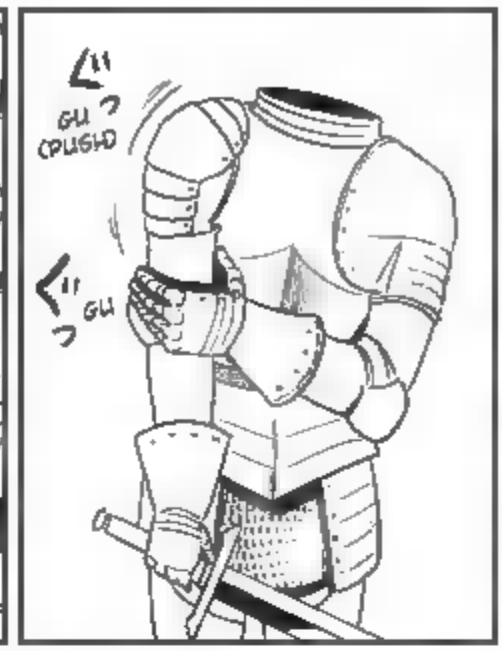
GOSHA (CLANG)

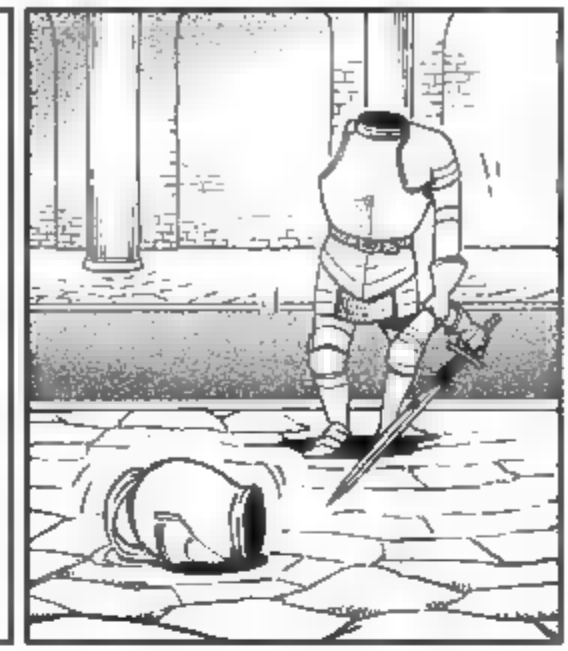
OKAY, LET'S GET THE DOOR OPEN WHILE WE CAN.
R-RIGHT.

RUN, GO!

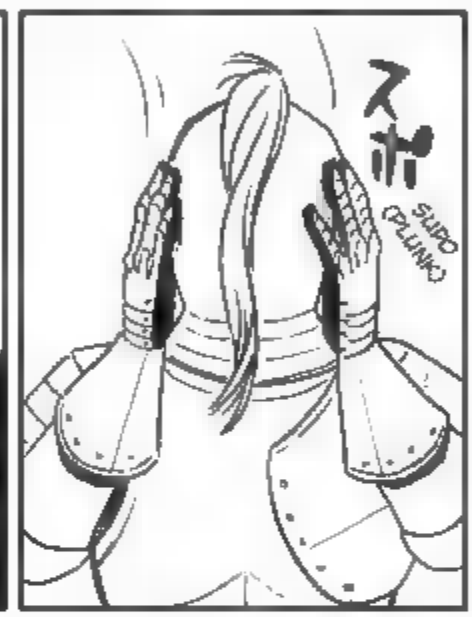

DOSA (WHUMP)

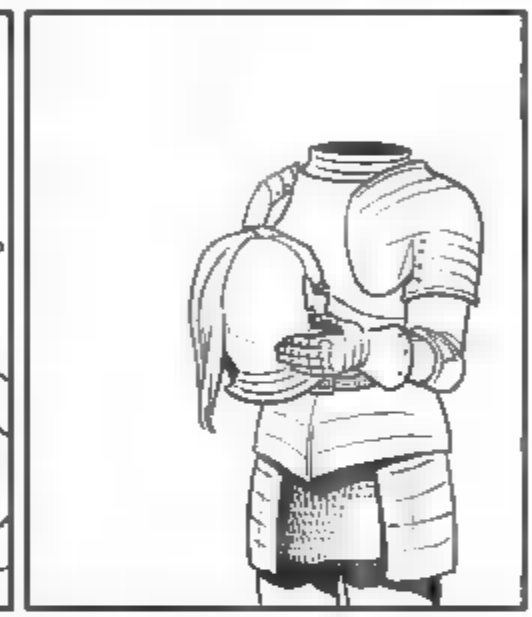



GU
(PUSH)
GU



KYU
(SQUEAK)

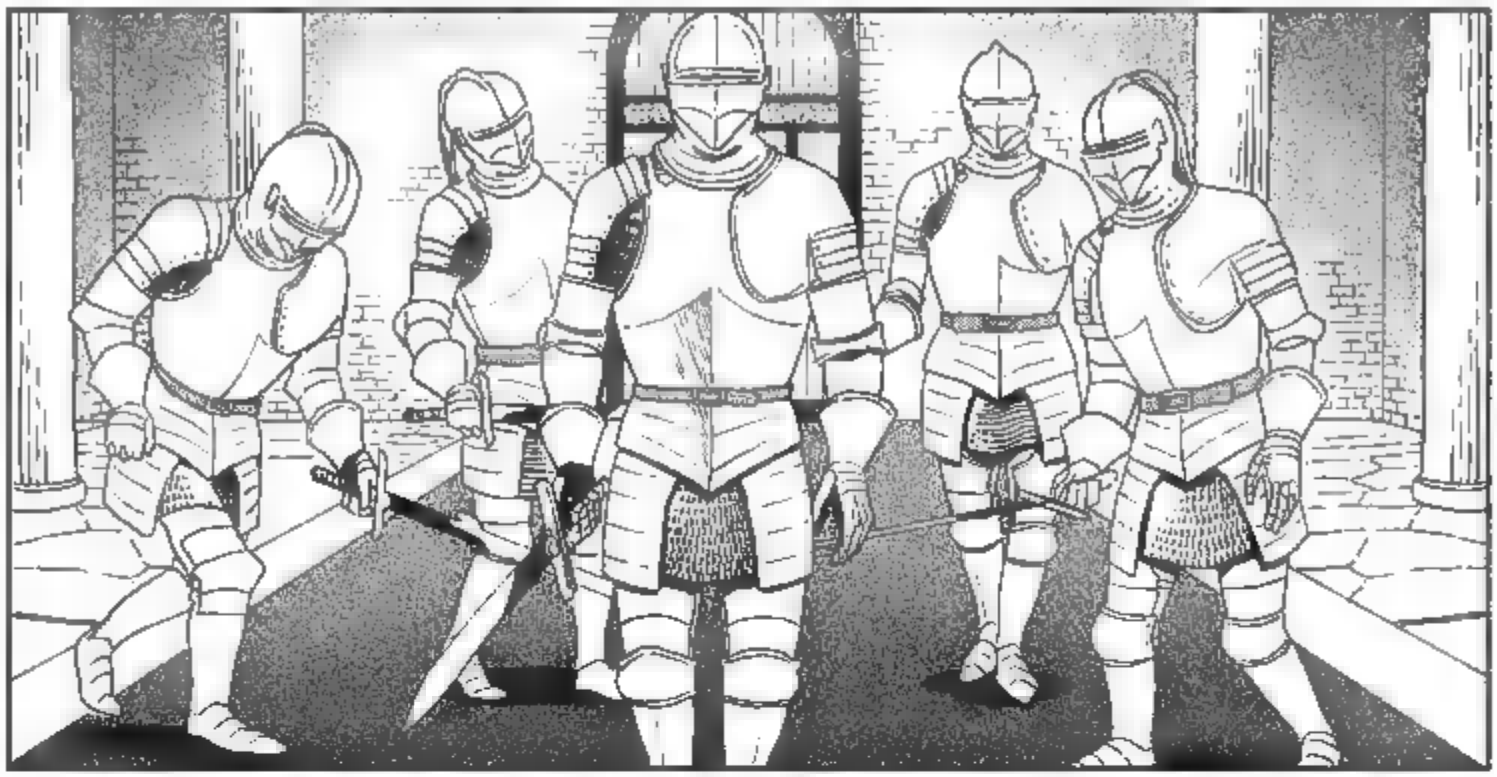

SUPO
(PLUNK)

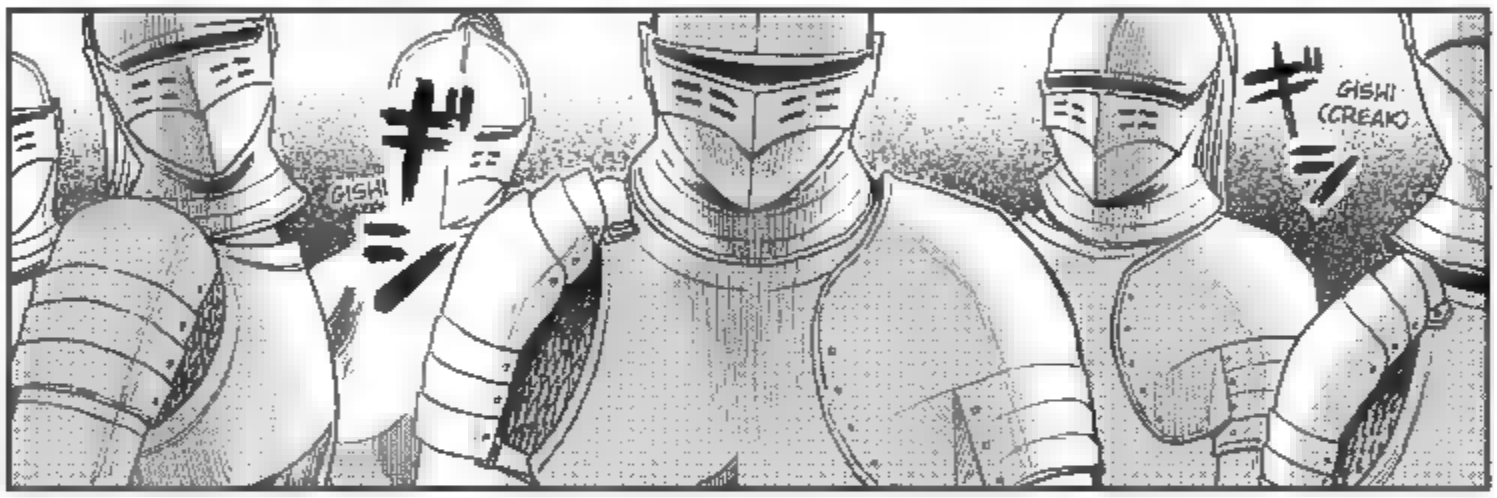


THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! LOOK!

IGNORE THEM, MAR-CILLE. JUST RUN!
YAAH!

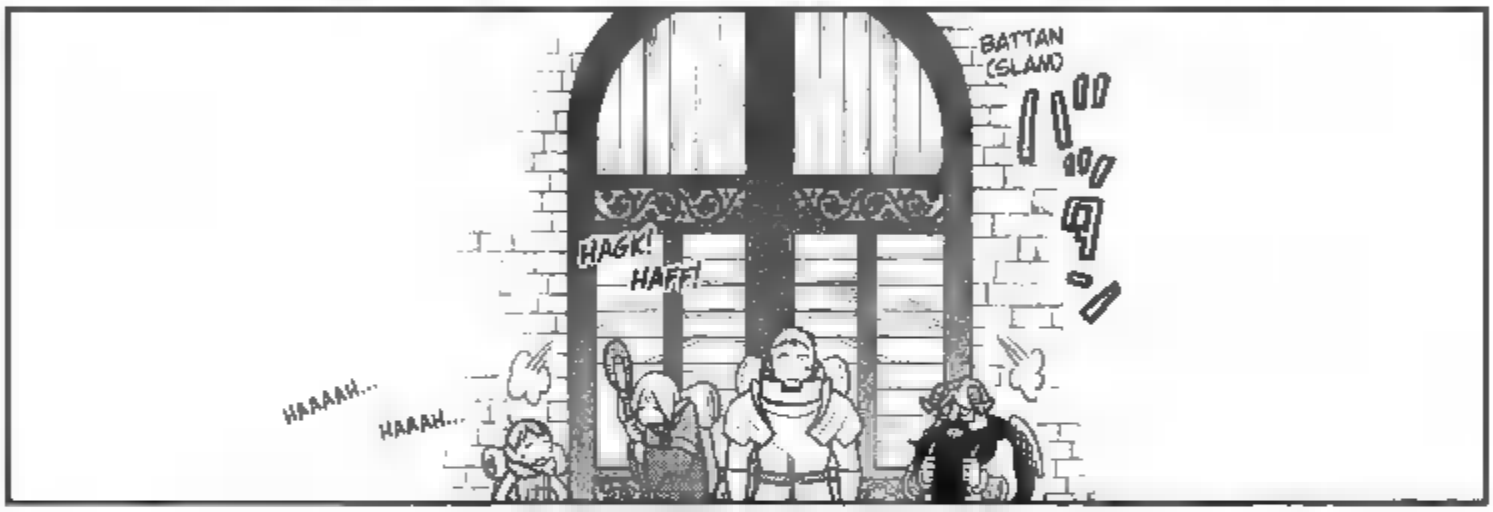
GASHAN
(CLANK)




GISHI
GISHI (CREAK)

GACCHA (CLANK)
GACCHA
N-NO, THIS WON'T WORK!
LET'S TURN BACK AND RE-GROUP.
CREEPY...
WHAT THE HECK?
THEY'RE COM-PLETELY BLOCK-ING OUR WAY!

RE-TREAT!


BATTAN (SLAM)
HAGK!
HAFF!
HAAAAH...
HAAAH...

THAT MEANS WE'LL BE FREE TO GO ON OUR WAY IF WE DEFEAT THEIR CONTROLLER, BUT...
WHEW.
THEY JUST FOLLOW THE ORDERS THEY'RE GIVEN.
THEY DON'T GET SICK OR MOODY. THEY CAN'T.

THERE MUST BE, SOMEWHERE! ARMOR IS A PILE OF IRON! IT CAN'T MOVE ON ITS OWN.
!!
IS THERE REALLY SOMEONE CONTROLLING THEM?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE.

DID WE ANNOY THEM SOMEHOW?
THEY'RE WEIRDLY STUBBORN TODAY.
NOT POSSIBLE.

COULD THEY BE PROTECTING SOMETHING ON THE OTHER SIDE?

IT WAS AS IF THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO GO THROUGH THE DOOR...

!!

THIS TIME

ORDINARILY

BUT THEY DEFINITELY BLOCKED OUR PATH TODAY.

THEY USUALLY ONLY ATTACK PEOPLE WHO APPROACH THEM.

NO DECENT PERSON WOULD USE MAGIC THIS POWERFUL!

I DON'T KNOW! BUT!

HUH? SO, WHAT, IT'S A MONSTER?

YES!

MAYBE THE ONE CONTROLLING THEM IS NEARBY!?

THAT COULD BE IT!

AH!

FOR EXAMPLE...

"SOMEHOW"?

...ONE OF US GOES THROUGH THE DOOR ALONE.

...WHILE THREE OF US ACT AS DECOYS AND DISTRACT THEM...

...AND FIND THE MAGICIAN WHO'S CONTROLLING IT, WE MAY BE ABLE TO KEEP THE ARMOR FROM MOVING.

ANYWAY, IF WE SOMEHOW BREAK THROUGH THAT WALL OF LIVING ARMOR...

BUT I'M NO GOOD AT FIGHTING.
YOU'RE GOOD AT HIDING YOUR PRESENCE, CHILCHUCK. I THINK YOU'D BE BEST FOR THIS.

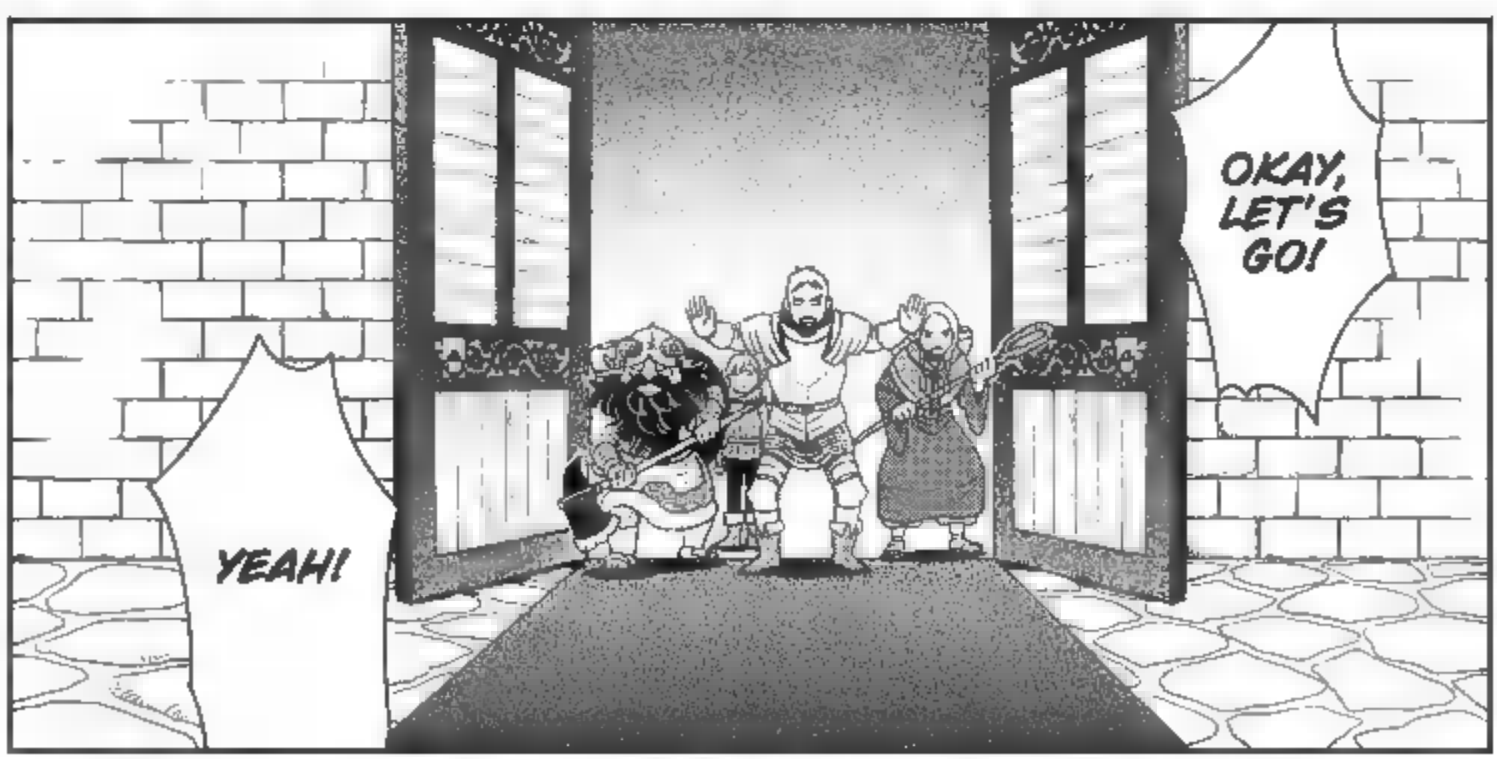
.....
GOOD LUCK.

IF THE ENEMY'S NOT ALIVE, BEING ABLE TO MASK MY PRESENCE IS POINT-LESS.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAVE EYES OR EARS.

ALL READY, MARCILLE?
UH-HUH.

KYU (SQUIK)

NO EYES OR EARS...
HE'S RIGHT.

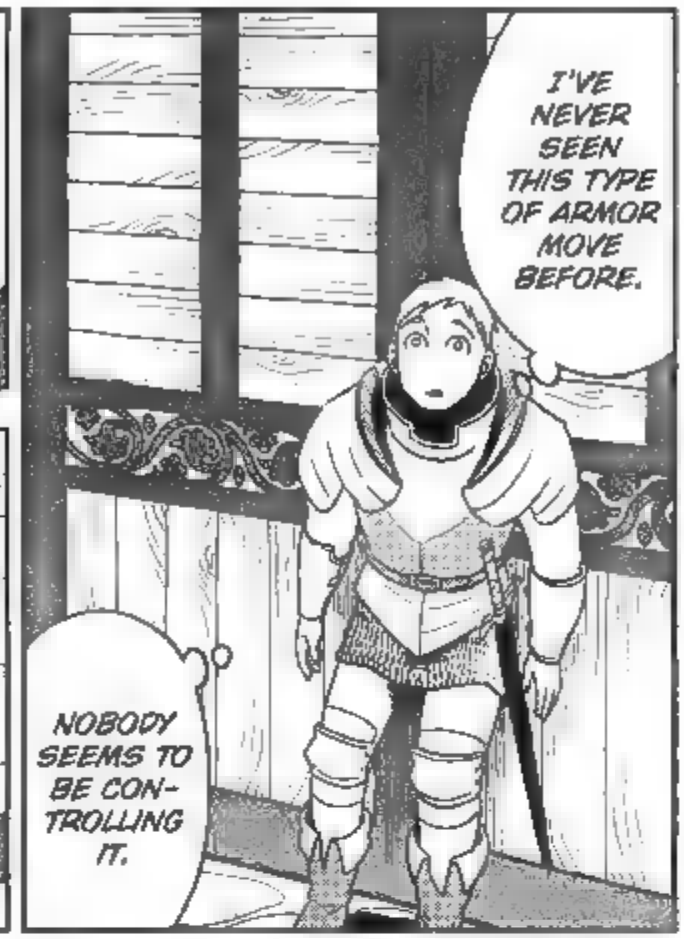

OKAY, LET'S GO!
YEAH!

GIGI (CRIK)
GISHI (CREAK)
HEY, ARMOR! HEADS UP!
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
WAUGH! JUST LOOK AT ALL OF THEM!
HERE! THIS WAY!
EVERY-BODY OVER HERE!
DOKI (RADMP)
DOKI
WHAT ON EARTH IS...?
KASASA (SHUFFLE)
ZUZU (SSK)
ズ
ズ

GIGIII
(CREEEAK)
DOKI
(BADMP)

HUH!? THERE'S ARMOR IN HERE TOO...

GACHAN (CLANK)
HMM ...
IT LOOKS TOUGHER THAN THE ARMOR OUT-SIDE.


I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS TYPE OF ARMOR MOVE BEFORE.
NOBODY SEEMS TO BE CON-TROLLING IT.

I CAN'T CALL FOR BACKUP.
C'MON C'MON!
EEEEE!

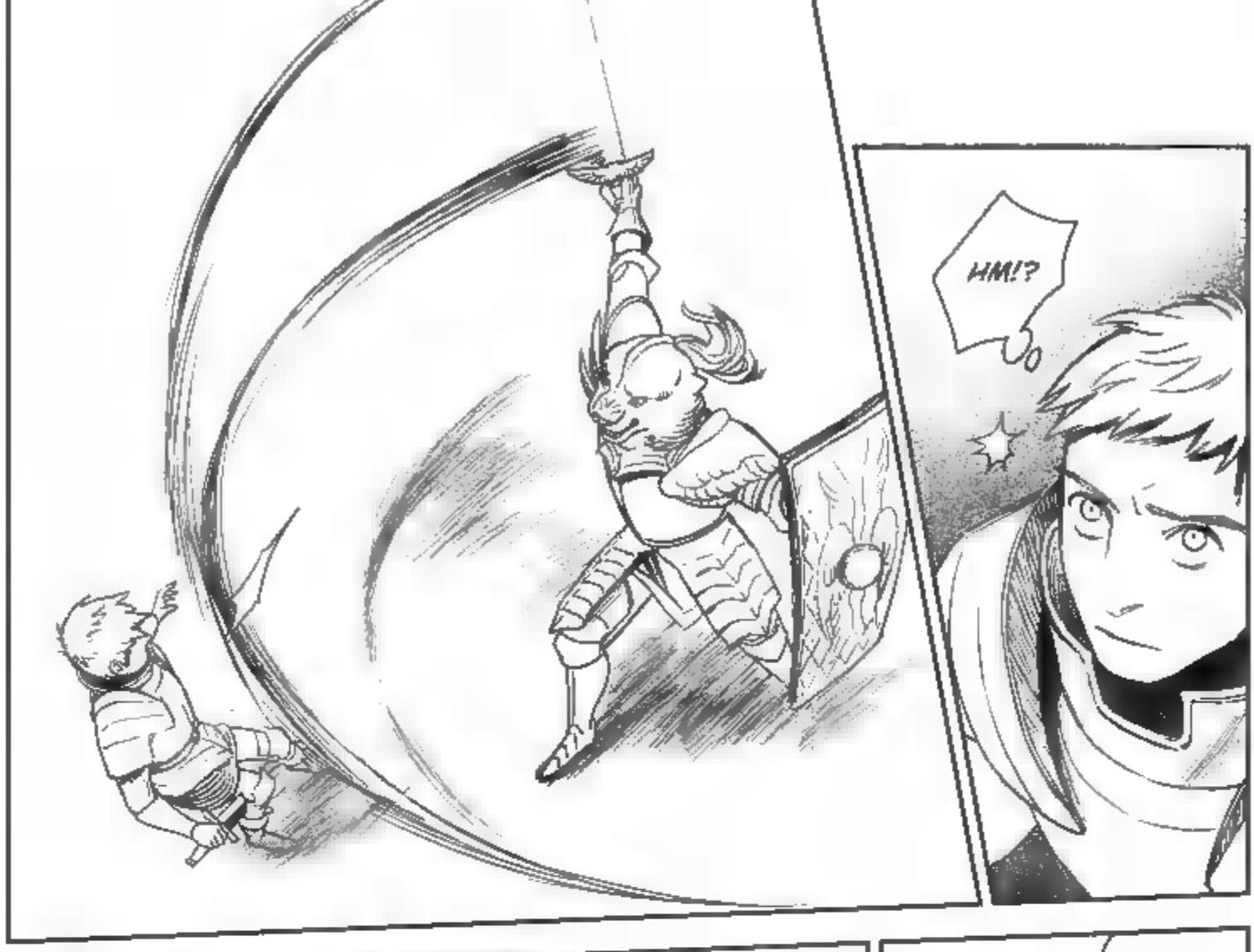
...WHAT THESE THINGS ARE PROTECTING ON MY OWN.
SUSU (SNEAK)
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT...

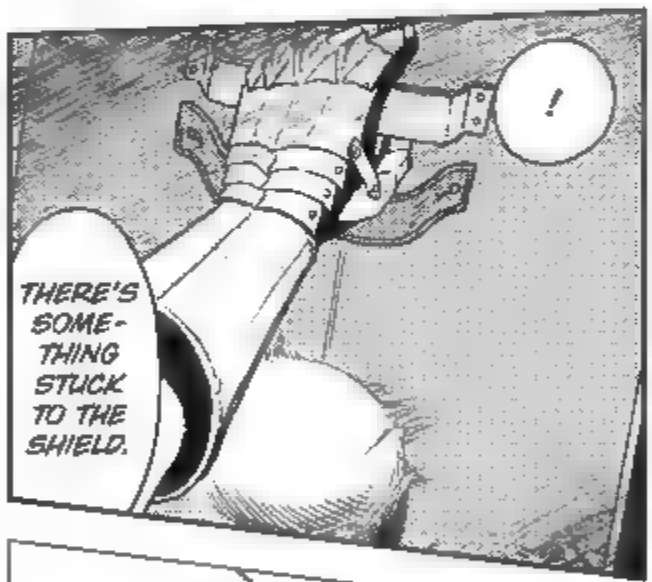
GUWA (LUNGE)

PIKU (PERK)

I'LL HAVE TO CUT OFF ITS ARMS OR LEGS TO STOP IT.
RGH!
BOK! (SNAP)
AGH!
GHK.

NOT GOOD!
I NEED TO CREATE AN OPENING SOMEHOW, OR ELSE...
DOSA (FWUMP)
TAKE THAT!
BA (VWIP)
GAN (CLANG)


HM!?

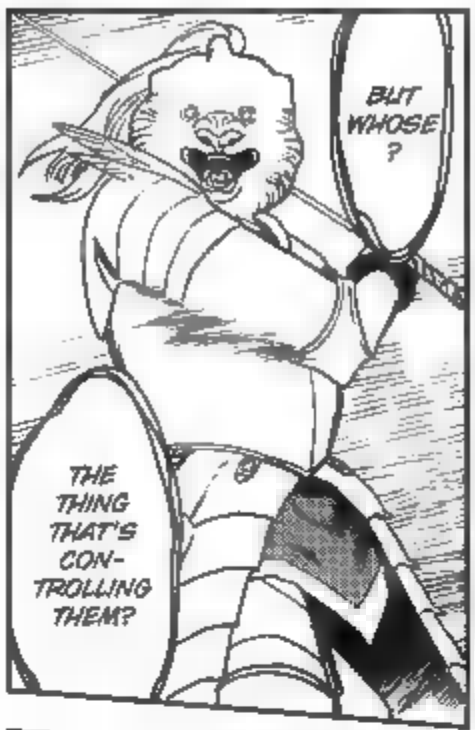

!
THERE'S SOME-THING STUCK TO THE SHIELD.

WHY DID IT JUST PROTECT ITS SHIELD !?
CHIRA (GLANCE)

I'LL PUT IT IN HERE.
OH!

WHEEE!
YEAH!

WHAT IS THAT?
I KNOW I'VE SEEN ONE BE-FORE...


BUT WHOSE ?
THE THING THAT'S CON-TROLLING THEM?

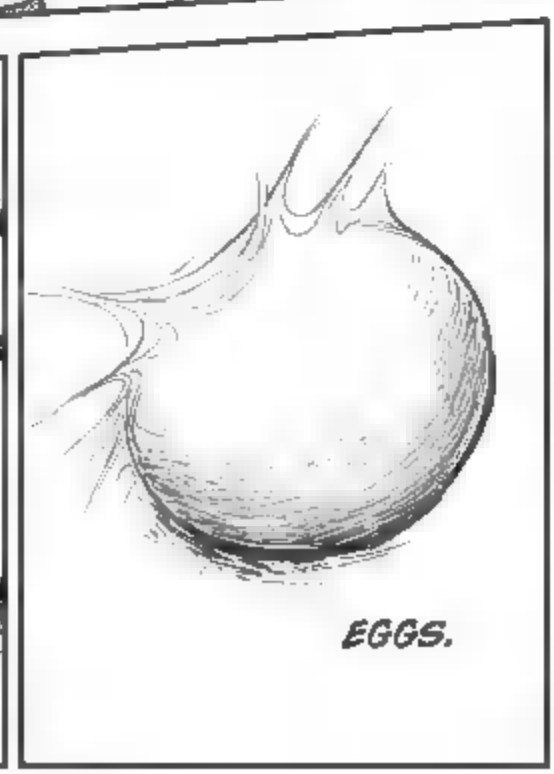
SOME CREA-TURE'S EGGS.
IT WAS PRO-TECT-ING THOSE.

AN EGG SAC!!

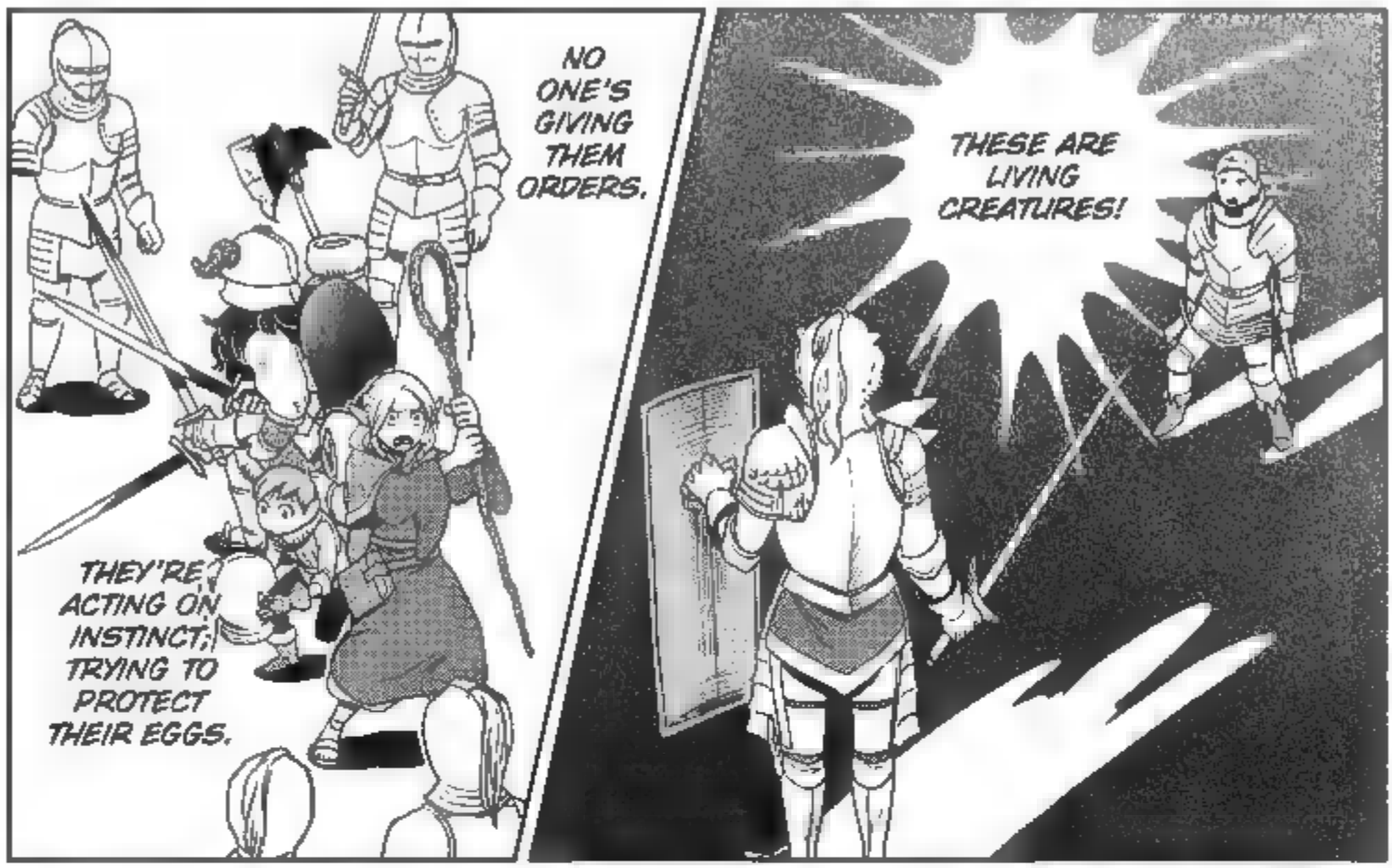
IT ALWAYS SEEMED ODD TO ME.
AN EYELESS, EARLESS, INORGANIC THING, RETRIEVING ITS HEAD AND PUTTING IT BACK.

NO.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE.


EGGS.

THE WAY ITS HEAD MOVES, TRACKING ME.
GI (CREAK)


NO ONE'S GIVING THEM ORDERS.
THEY'RE ACTING ON INSTINCT; TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR EGGS.
THESE ARE LIVING CREATURES!

IN THAT CASE, THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF WAYS...
...TO DEFEAT THEM.

AND THEY'RE EDIBLE.

Translation Notes

Page 5
The specific hot pot being made here, *mizutaki*, is an unthickened stew of boiled, unseasoned meat and vegetables that is cooked at the table.

Page 39
Shabu-shabu is thinly sliced meat (usually beef) parboiled in hot broth, then dipped in sauce.

Oyako-don (mother-and-child rice bowls) usually [redacted]t of chicken, egg, and sautéed onions served over rice.

Page 47
The Matagi [redacted] people of Japan's Tohoku region who farm during the growing season and then form bands and hunt during the winter.

"Along comes a duck with a leek on its back" is a Japanese phrase used when something terribly convenient happens, as if a duck has arrived to dinner with its own seasoning in tow.

Page 49
According to Japanese urban legend, cherry trees are [redacted] beautiful because there are corpses buried under them. The legend stems from the folk belief that cherry blossoms were originally white but grew pink from the blood of the corpses buried under the trees.

Page 113
Kakiage [redacted] "cakes" made of assorted shredded vegetables and sometimes seafood that are then lightly battered and fried.

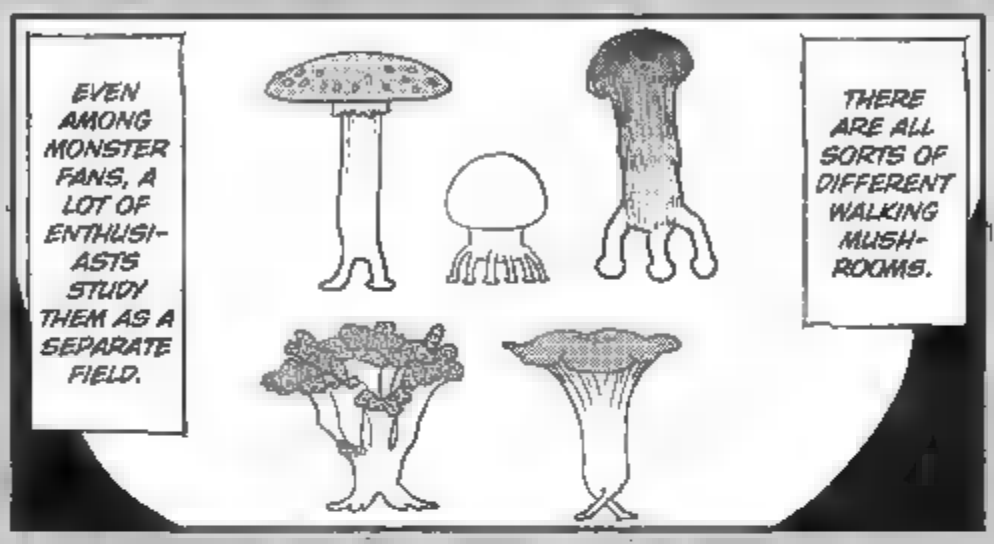
Page 120
Tempura refers to meat or vegetables that have been battered and deep-fried. Tempura is distinct from other deep-fry techniques [redacted] that breadcrumbs are omitted.

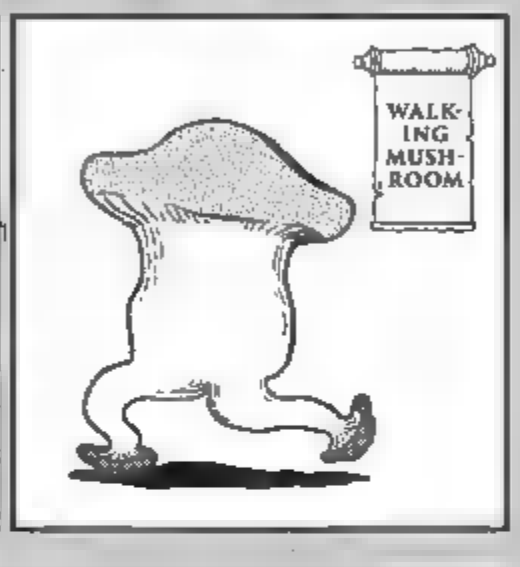
Page 186
Matango is a 1963 Japanese thriller about a group of castaways who are stranded on an island, [redacted] the fungi that grow there, and find themselves slowly turning into mushrooms...which explains Marcille's reaction.

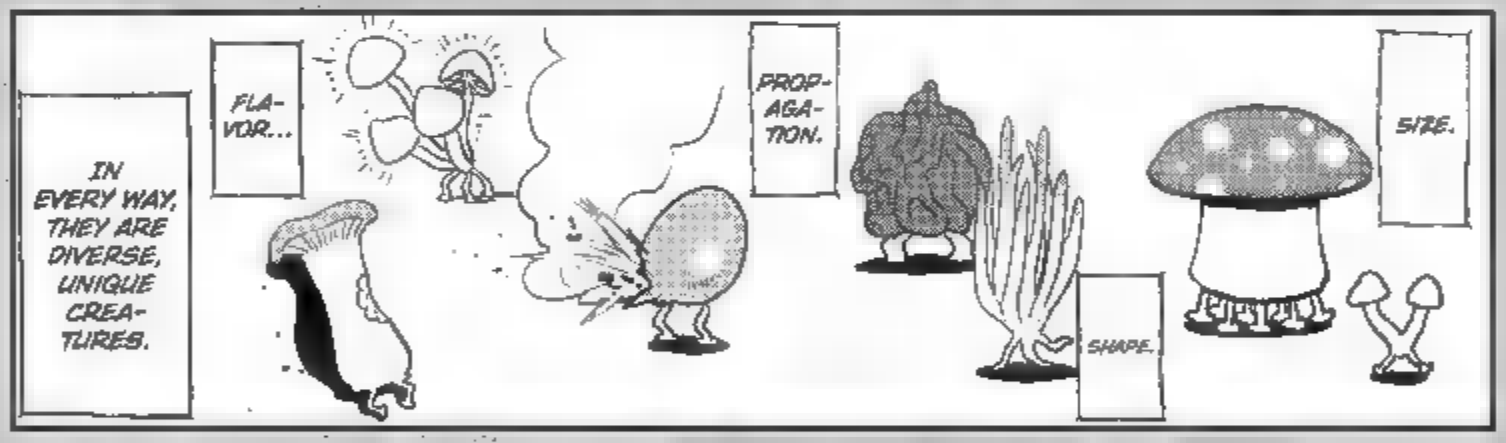
Page 125
Senshi is using degrees Celsius. Converted, 180°C is about 365°F. Ouch!

To be continued...

MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES 1.



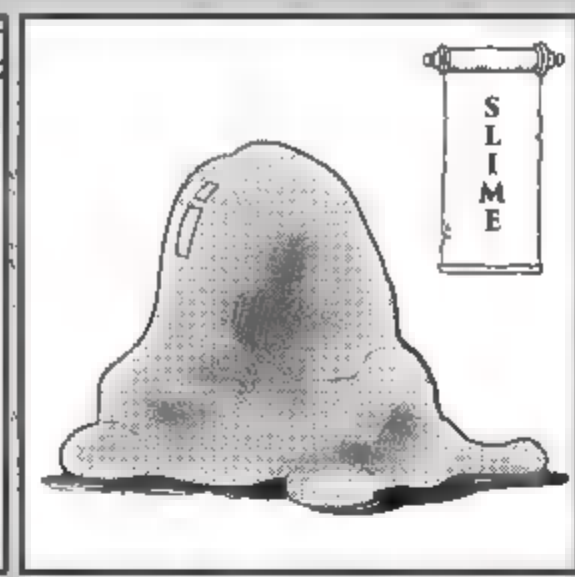




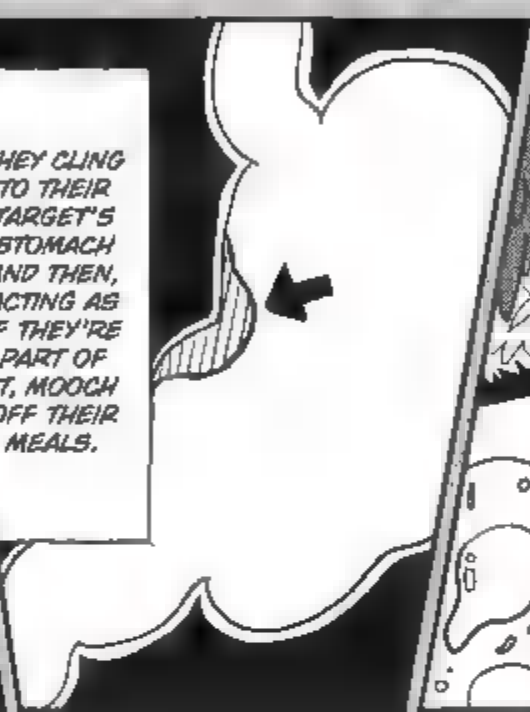
SFX: PARARA (FLIPPP)

SLIMES THAT ATTACK HUMANS ARE A RARE EXCEPTION.
BICHA (SPLAT)
びちゃ
WAUGH!

DUM DEE DUM...
DUM...

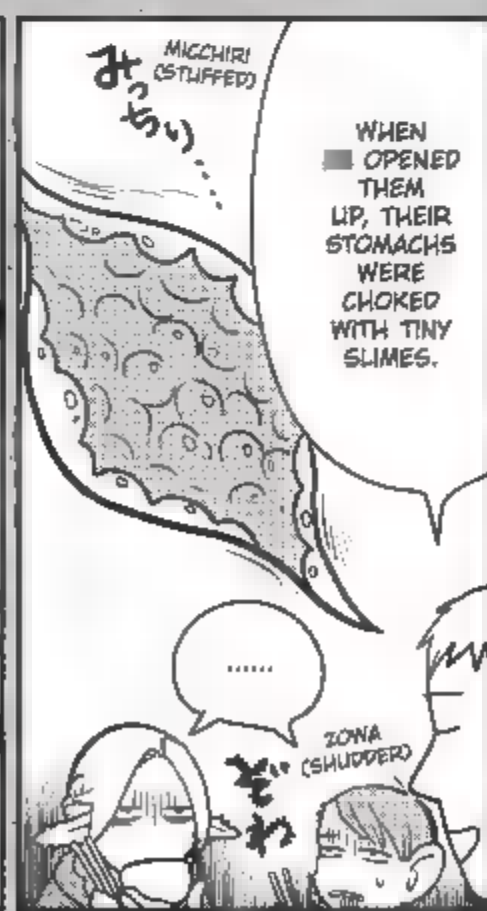

SLIME

THEN THEY MOVE INTO THE PREY'S BOWELS AND SPAWN. THE EGGS ARE RELEASED ALONG WITH THE FECES.

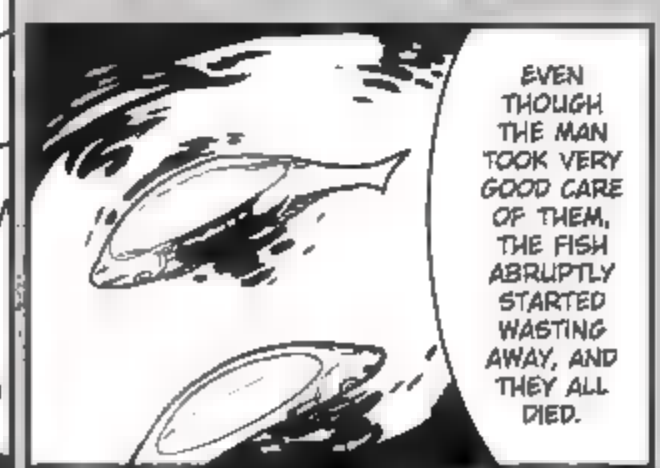

THEY CLING TO THEIR TARGET'S STOMACH AND THEN, ACTING AS IF THEY'RE PART OF IT, MOOCH OFF THEIR MEALS.

AS A RULE, MOST TYPES LURK NEAR WATER AND WAIT FOR AQUATIC CREATURES TO SWALLOW THEM.

WHAT BETTER TIME COULD THERE BE?
DID YOU HAVE TO TELL THAT STORY NOW!?
IDIOT!


みっちり
MICCHIRI (STUFFED)
WHEN [redacted] OPENED THEM UP, THEIR STOMACHS WERE CHOKED WITH TINY SLIMES.
.....
ZOWA (SHUDDER)

THERE WAS A HOBBYIST WHO KEPT FISH IN A SMALL POND.
I HEARD THIS ONE TOO.

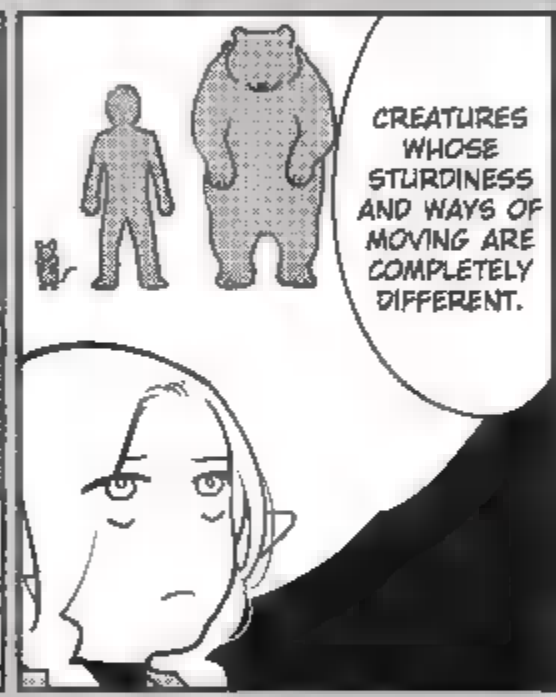

EVEN THOUGH THE MAN TOOK VERY GOOD CARE OF THEM, THE FISH ABRUPTLY STARTED WASTING AWAY, AND THEY ALL DIED.

IT'S EASY TO TRAP PREY USING FORCE.
HOWEVER, IF IT ISN'T OKAY TO HURT THE TARGET, YOU NEED A [redacted] DELICATE TECHNIQUE.

I SHOULD NOT HAVE ASKED HER IF IT "FELT GOOD."
STILL, IT'S TRUE THAT SOME MAN-EATING PLANTS' PREY-TRAPPING ABILITIES ARE DRAWING NOTICE.

MAN-EATING PLANTS

IT'S REALLY HARD FOR A PLANT ...
...NO, FOR EVEN A HUMAN TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

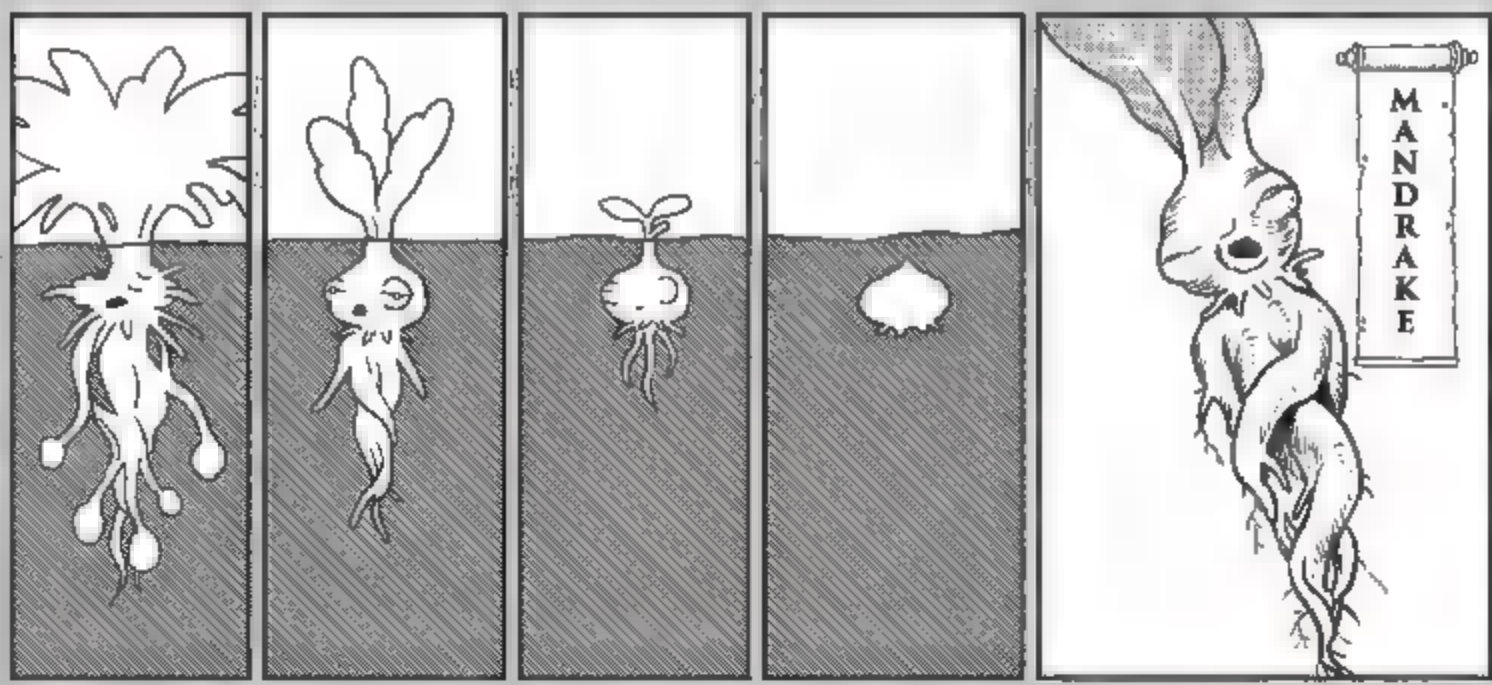

CREATURES WHOSE STURDINESS AND WAYS OF MOVING ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

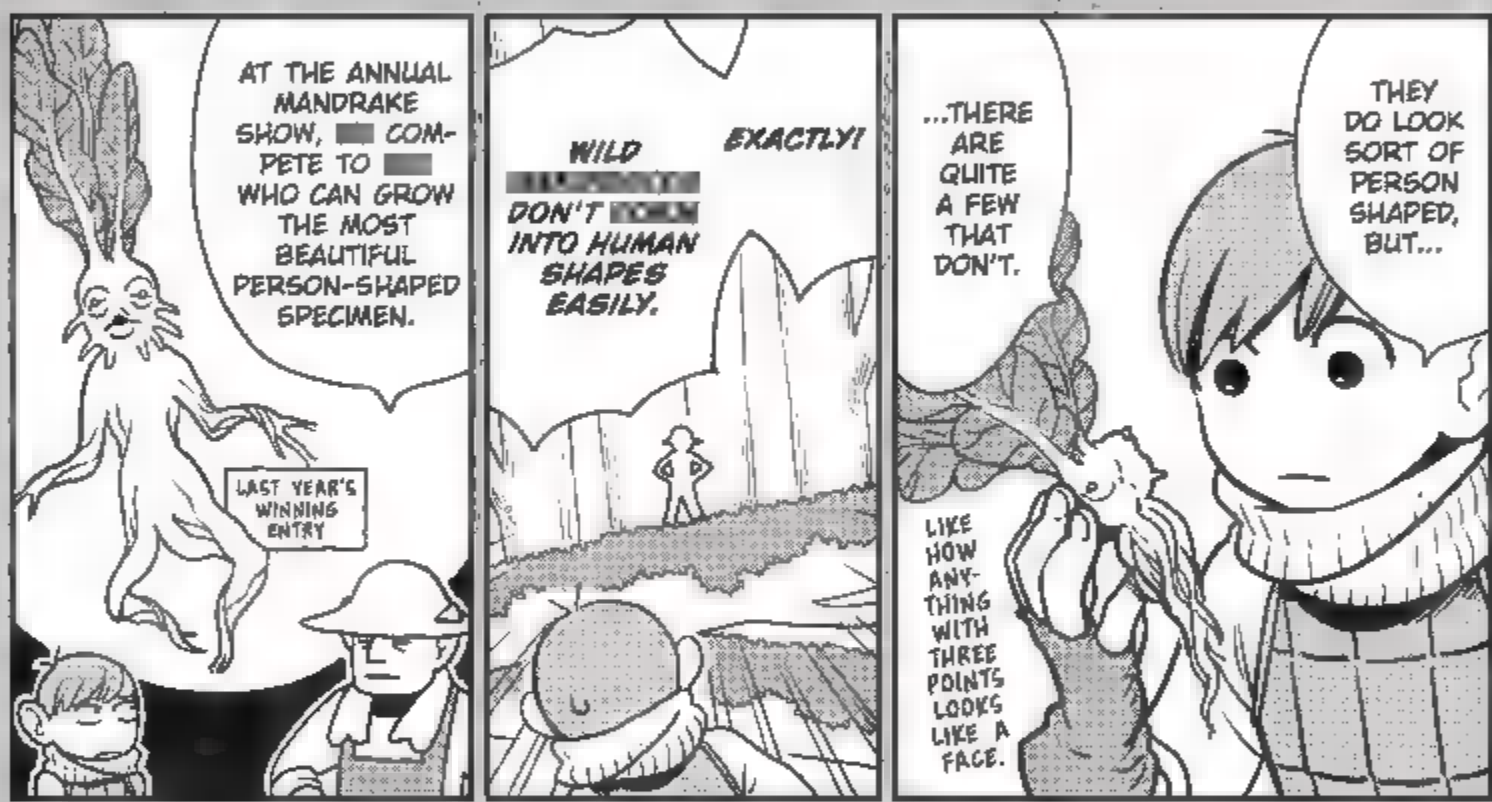
THEY ADAPT TO ABSOLUTELY ANY CREATURE.
RATS OR BEARS OR HUMANS.

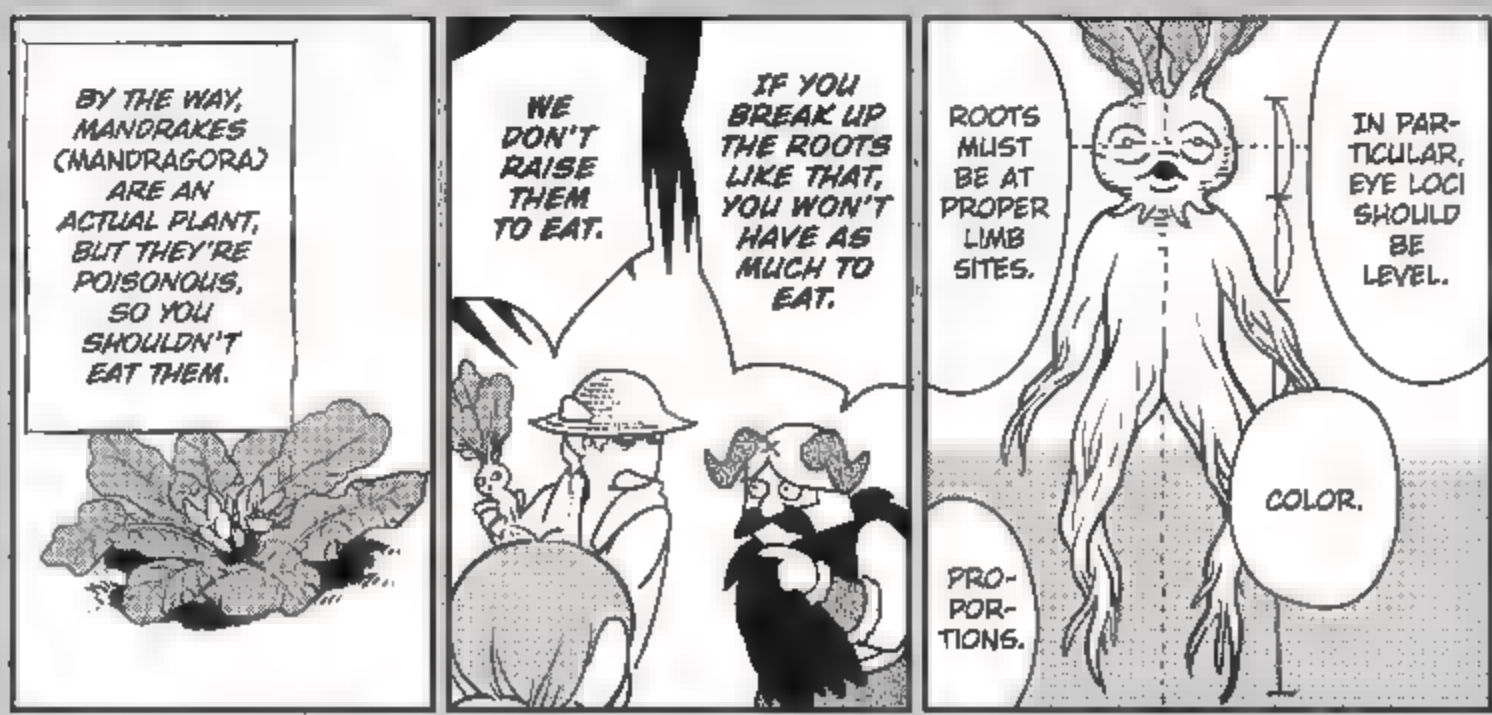
GOOO (FOOOM)
ゴ
ALL I CAN SEE IS A FUTURE WHERE IT'S USED FOR EVIL.
AAAH!

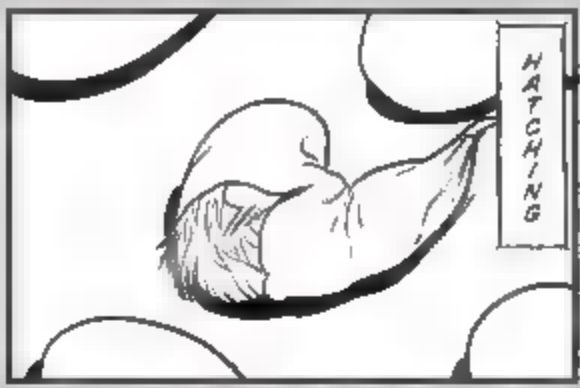
LOTS OF PEOPLE WANT TO SINK TONS OF CAPITAL INTO RESEARCHING THIS MONSTER.
SEE? YOU'RE INTERESTED NOW, AREN'T YOU?

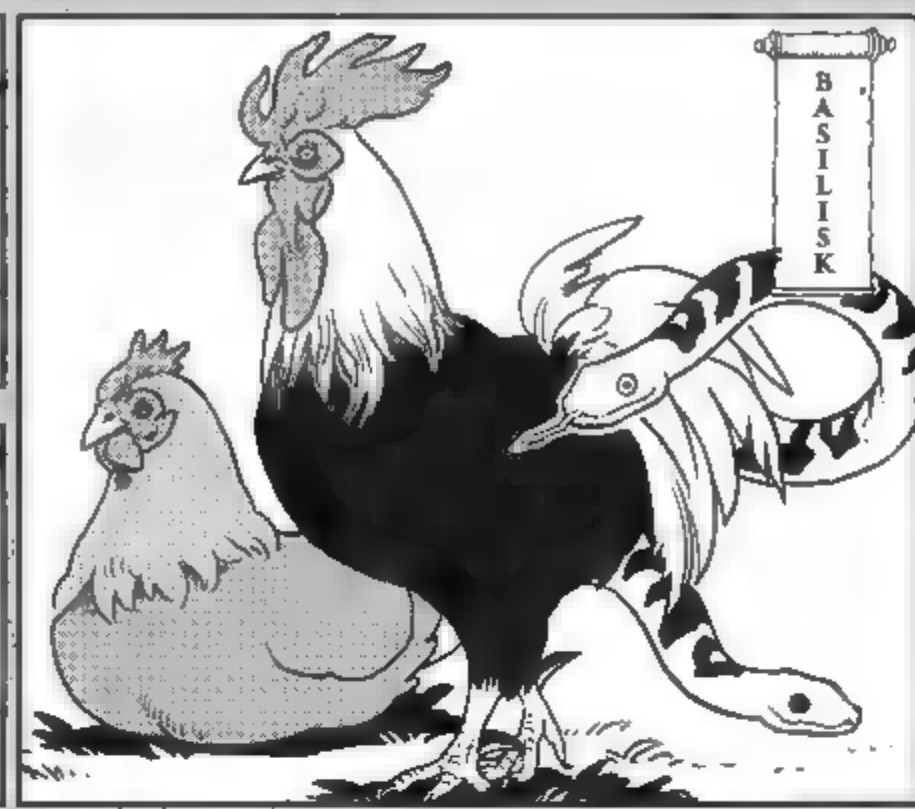
THEY SAY THESE PLANTS COULD BE USEFUL FOR ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
TRAPPING LARGE ANIMALS WITHOUT HURTING THEM, SAY.

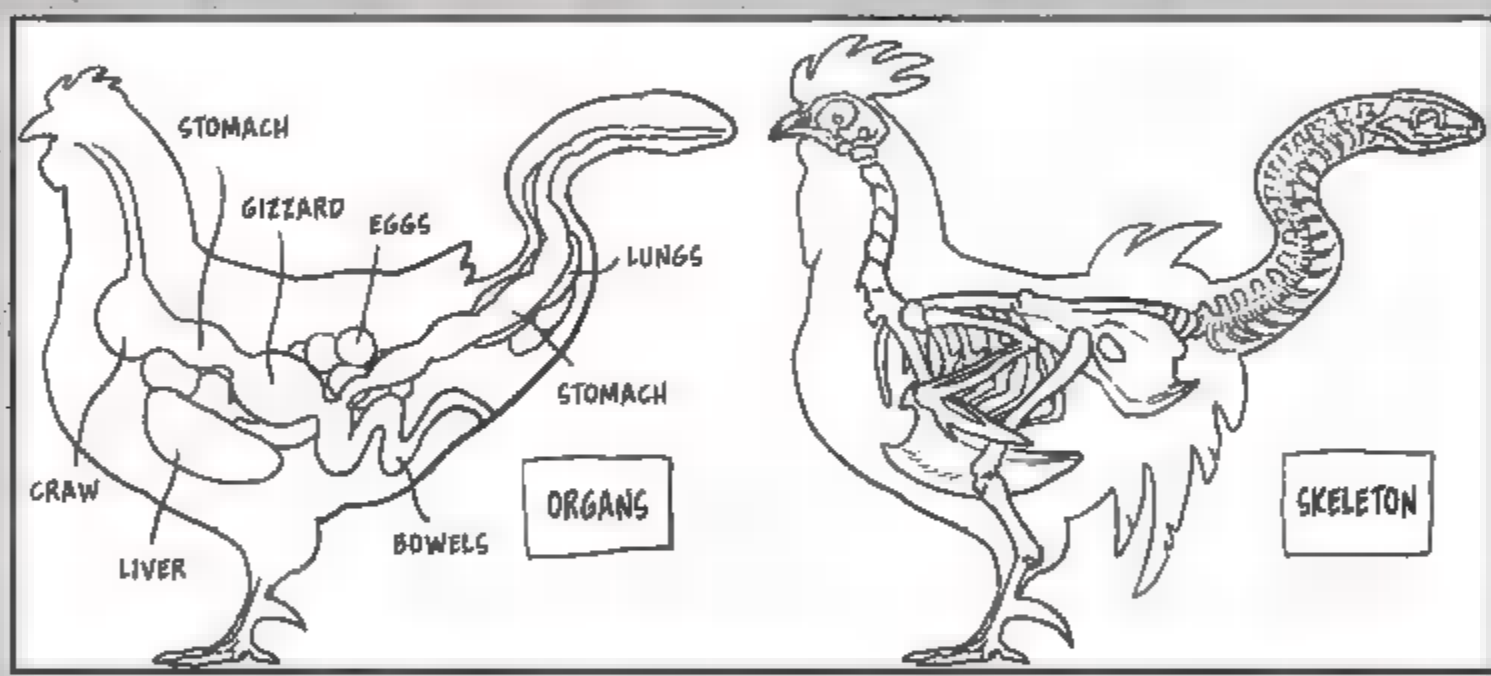

MANDRAKE

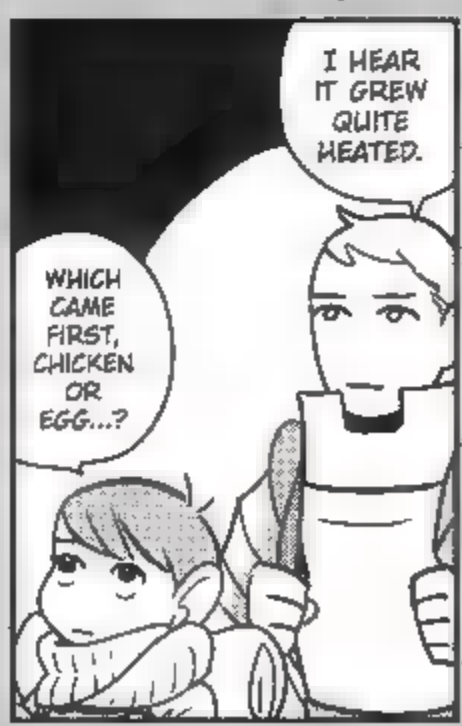

AT THE ANNUAL MANDRAKE SHOW, [redacted] COMPETE TO [redacted] WHO CAN GROW THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PERSON-SHAPED SPECIMEN.
LAST YEAR'S WINNING ENTRY
WILD [redacted] DON'T [redacted] INTO HUMAN SHAPES EASILY.
EXACTLY!
...THERE ARE QUITE A FEW THAT DON'T.
THEY DO LOOK SORT OF PERSON SHAPED, BUT...
LIKE HOW ANYTHING WITH THREE POINTS LOOKS LIKE A FACE.

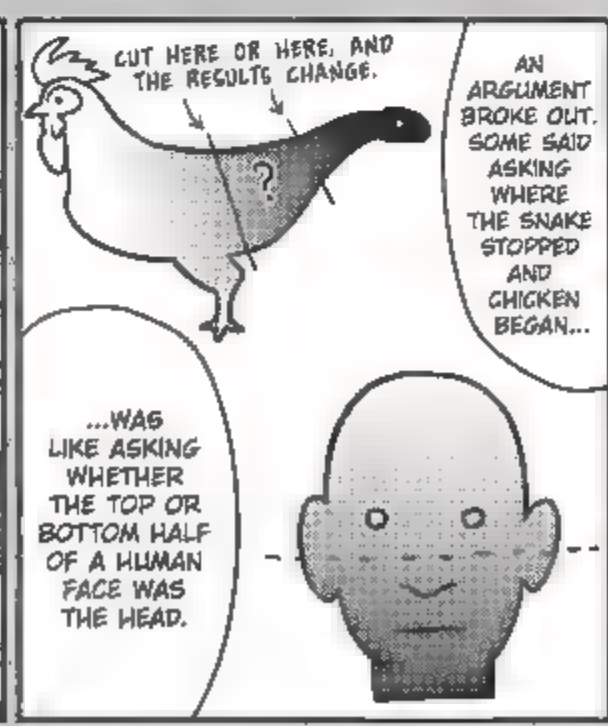

BY THE WAY, MANDRAKES (MANDRAGORA) ARE AN ACTUAL PLANT, BUT THEY'RE POISONOUS, SO YOU SHOULDN'T EAT THEM.
WE DON'T RAISE THEM TO EAT.
IF YOU BREAK UP THE ROOTS LIKE THAT, YOU WON'T HAVE AS MUCH TO EAT.
ROOTS MUST BE AT PROPER LIMB SITES.
IN PARTICULAR, EYE LOCI SHOULD BE LEVEL.
COLOR.
PROPORTIONS.


HATCHING


BASILISK

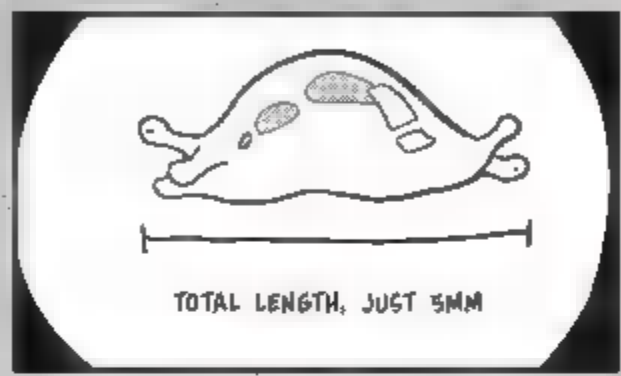

STOMACH
GIZZARD
EGGS
LUNGS
STOMACH
CRAW
LIVER
BOWELS
ORGANS
SKELETON

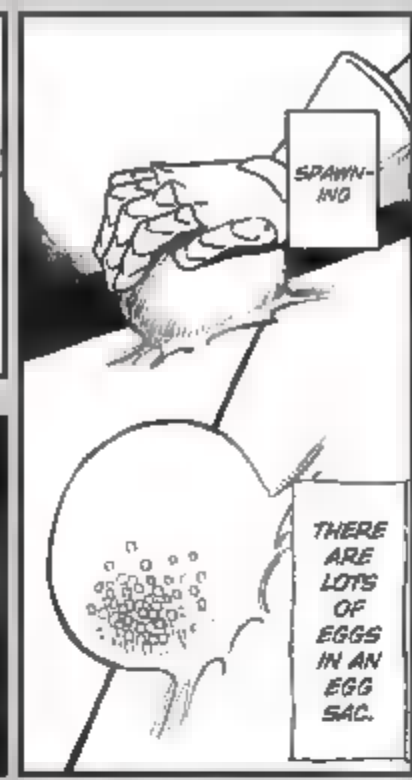

I HEAR IT GREW QUITE HEATED.
WHICH CAME FIRST, CHICKEN OR EGG...?


CUT HERE OR HERE, AND THE RESULTS CHANGE.
?
AN ARGUMENT BROKE OUT. SOME SAID ASKING WHERE THE SNAKE STOPPED AND CHICKEN BEGAN...
...WAS LIKE ASKING WHETHER THE TOP OR BOTTOM HALF OF A HUMAN FACE WAS THE HEAD.

WHEN BISECTED, THE SNAKE LIVED LONGER, SO SOME THINK THE SNAKE MAY BE THE HEAD.

HATCH-ING


TOTAL LENGTH, JUST 5MM

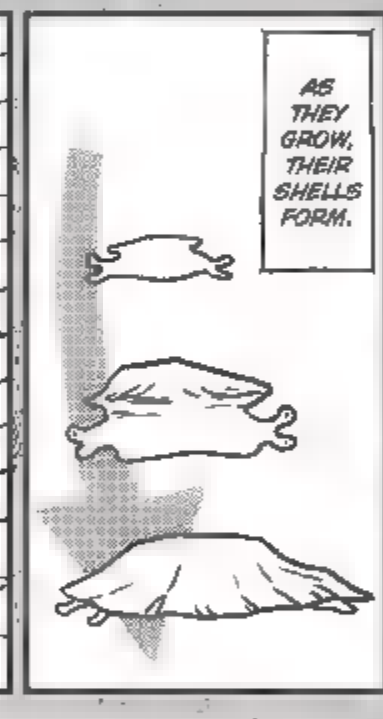

SPAWN-ING
THERE ARE LOTS OF EGGS IN AN EGG SAC.

LIVING ARMOR

ADULT
ONCE IT CAN MOVE, IT GOES LOOKING FOR OTHER COLO-NIES.
NUKURI (RISE)
ムクリ

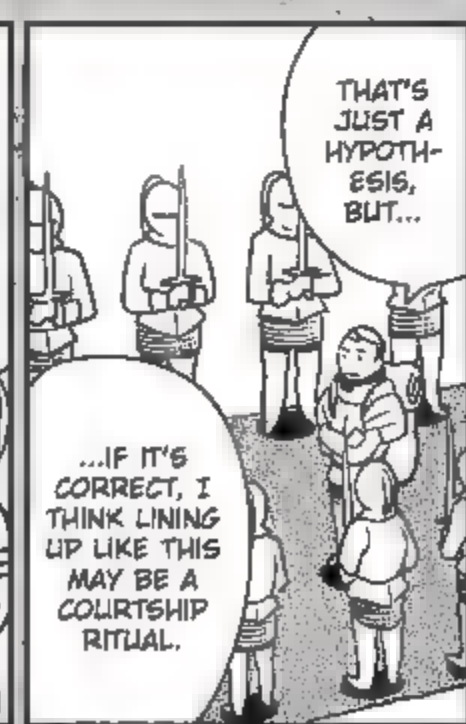
GRADU-ALLY, THEY TAKE THE SHAPE OF ARMOR.
IT LOOKS LIKE A RUINED SUIT OF ARMOR.

ONCE THEY REACH A CERTAIN SIZE, THEY BEGIN TO SWARM.


AS THEY GROW, THEIR SHELLS FORM.

WHAT'S WITH THAT?
THE [redacted] YOU SEE HOLDING HA[redacted] SOMETIMES! MAYBE THAT WASN'T AN ADVENTURER PRANK! MAYBE THEY WERE MATING!
SUTA (STRIDE) SUTA
スタスタ

IT'S LIKELY THAT LIVING ARMOR IS HERMAPHRO-DITIC AND THAT THE BIGGEST COLONY LAYS THE EGGS...
WAIT! THEN...!?
AH!


THAT'S JUST A HYPOTH-ESIS, BUT...
...IF IT'S CORRECT, I THINK LINING UP LIKE THIS MAY BE A COURTSHIP RITUAL.

1

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, ■ persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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2. LIVING ARMOR 2

LAIOS, COME ON! HURRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ARMOR!!

STILL, IF IT'S ALIVE, THERE MUST BE A WAY TO KILL IT.

MOVING ARMOR THAT WON'T DIE EVEN IF YOU KNOCK ITS HEAD OFF...

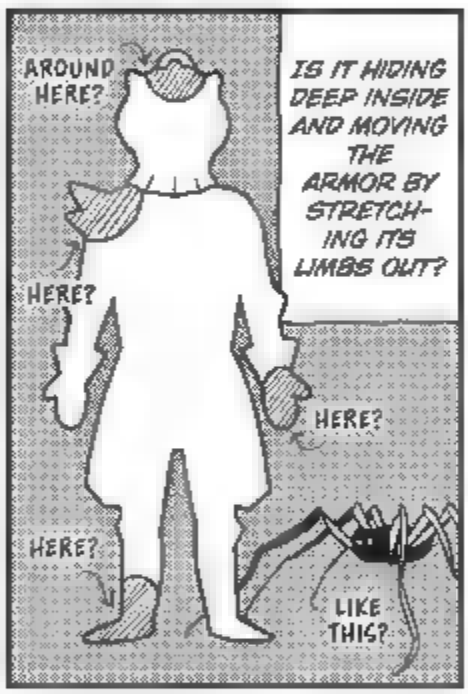
I NEED TO ATTACK WHAT'S INSIDE THE ARMOR.
METHODS THAT TAKE TIME AREN'T PRACTICAL.

STARVE IT.
SUF-FO-CATE IT.
WOUND ITS ORGANS. DRAIN ITS BODY FLUIDS.

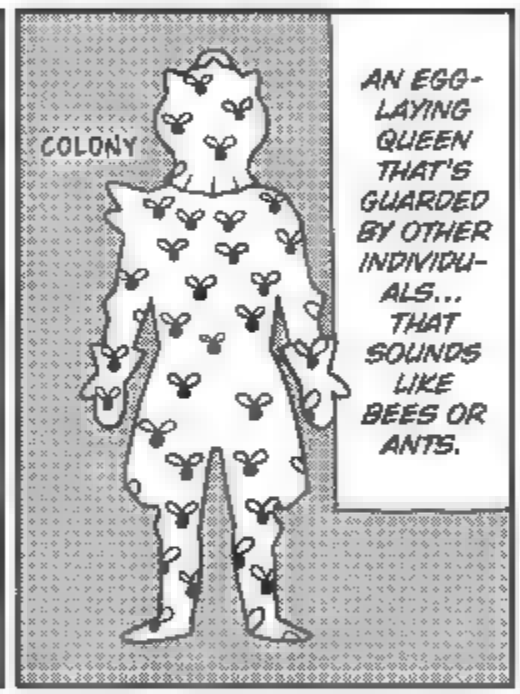
THE ARMOR LOOKS EMPTY.

WHAT IS IT SHAPED LIKE?

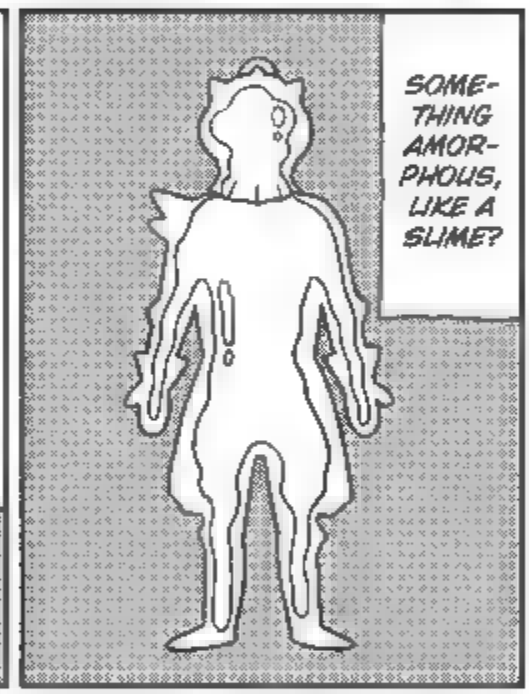
FIRST, WHERE ARE ITS ORGANS?



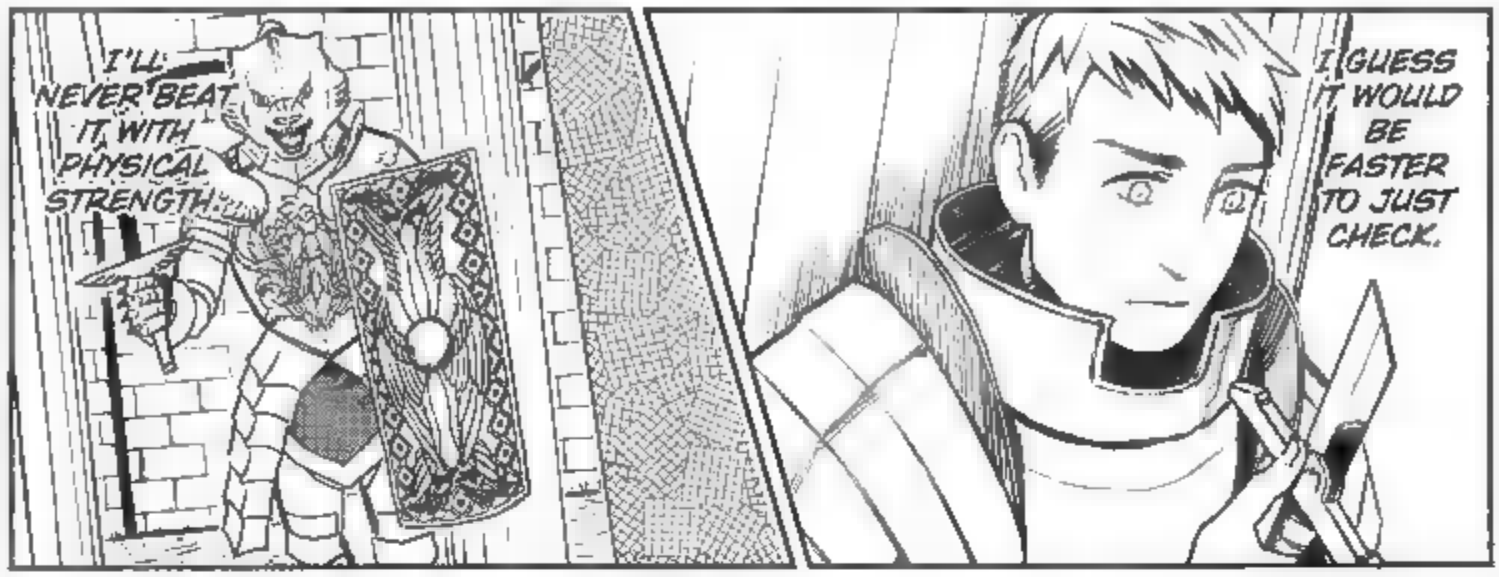
IS IT HIDING DEEP INSIDE AND MOVING THE ARMOR BY STRETCHING ITS LIMBS OUT?



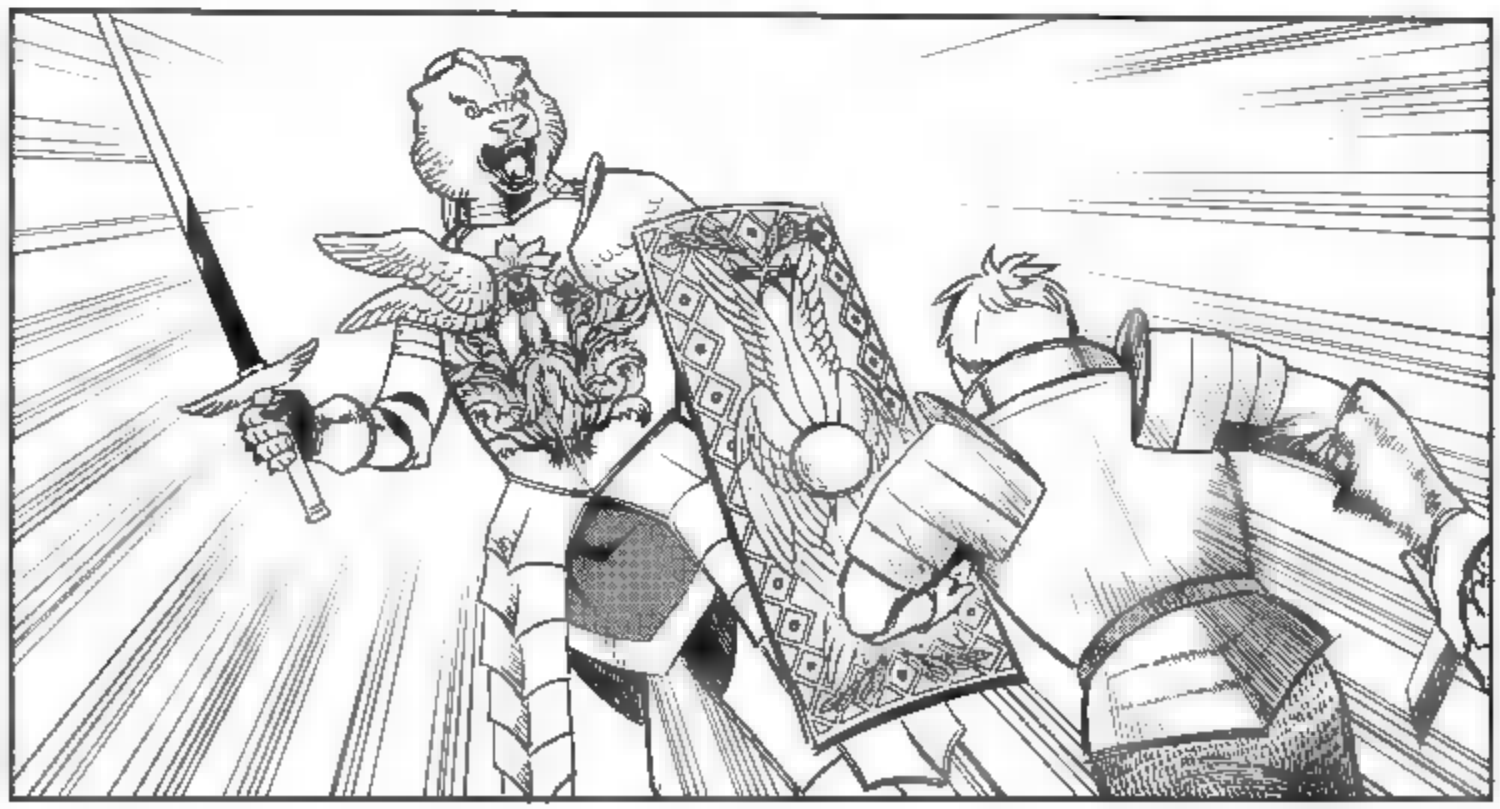
AN EGG-LAYING QUEEN THAT'S GUARDED BY OTHER INDIVIDUALS... THAT SOUNDS LIKE BEES OR ANTS.



SOMETHING AMORPHOUS, LIKE A SLIME?


I'LL NEVER BEAT IT WITH PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
I GUESS IT WOULD BE FASTER TO JUST CHECK.

AIM AT THE SHIELD WITH THE EGGS AND FORCE AN OPENING.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY.
ZA (SHUF)



DO (WHUD)
GURA (TOTTER)

GOT IT!

WHA ...!?
PETA (PAT)
TH-THERE'S NOTHING HERE.

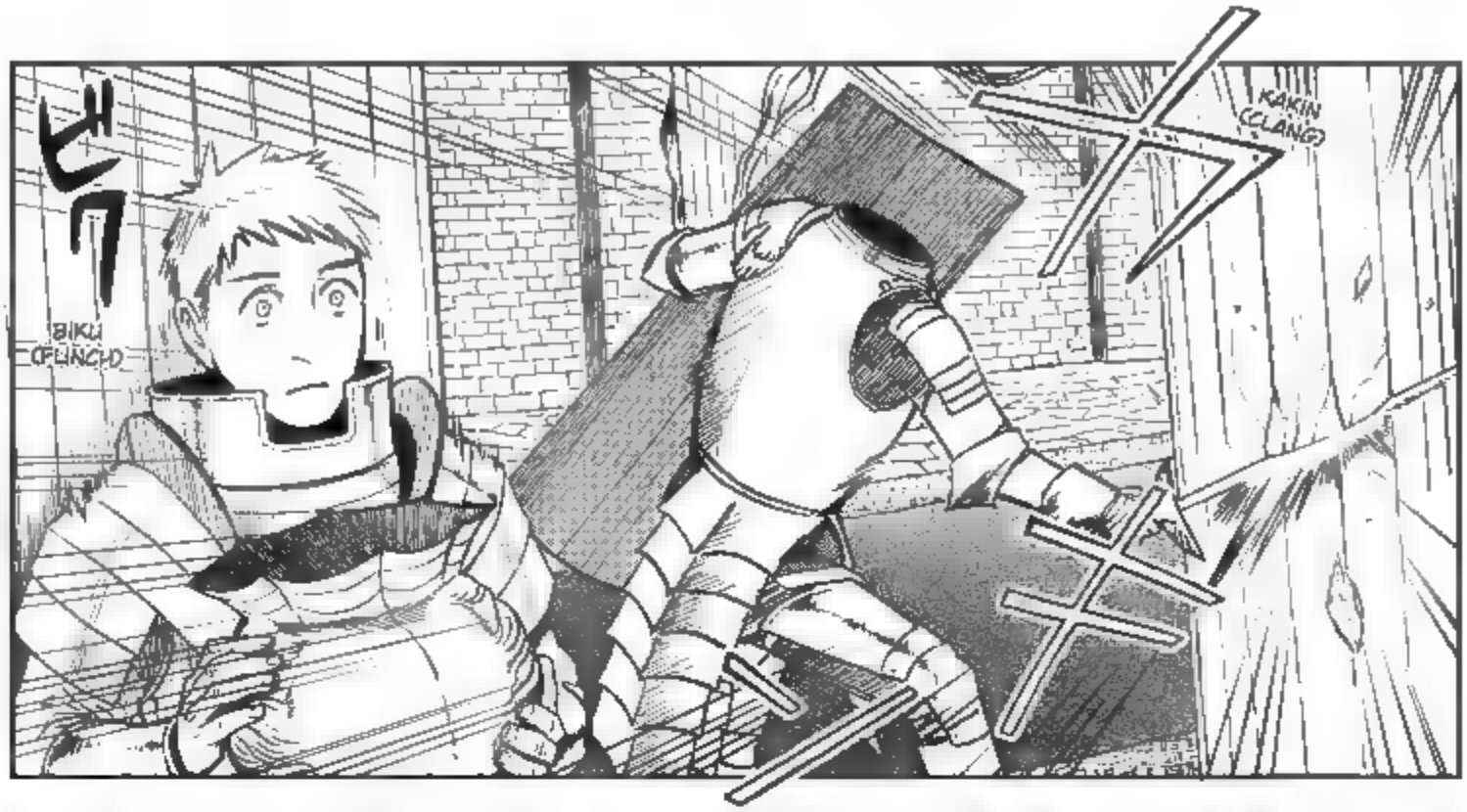
AND INSIDE IS...
KURU (FLIP)

GASHAN (CLANK)
SA (WHIP)

NEXT ...
GASHAN
NEXT MOVE ...

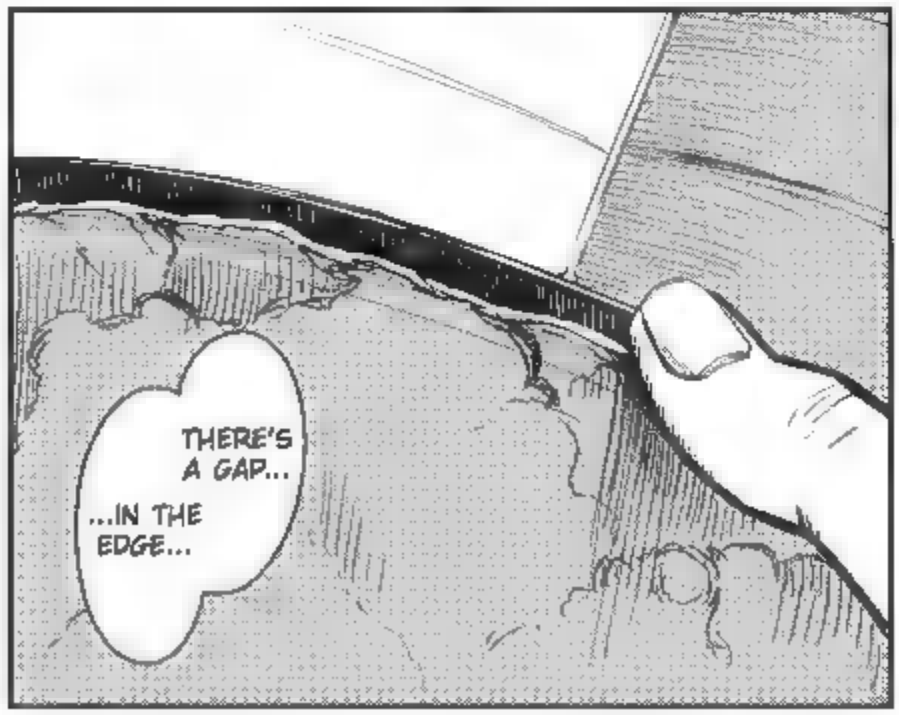
GASHA
THIS IS BAD.

GASHA
GASHA
IT REALLY IS EMPTY...
IS THE HEAD RE-TRIEVAL JUST MIMIC-RY!?


ビク
BIKU (FLINCH)
KAKIN (CLANG)

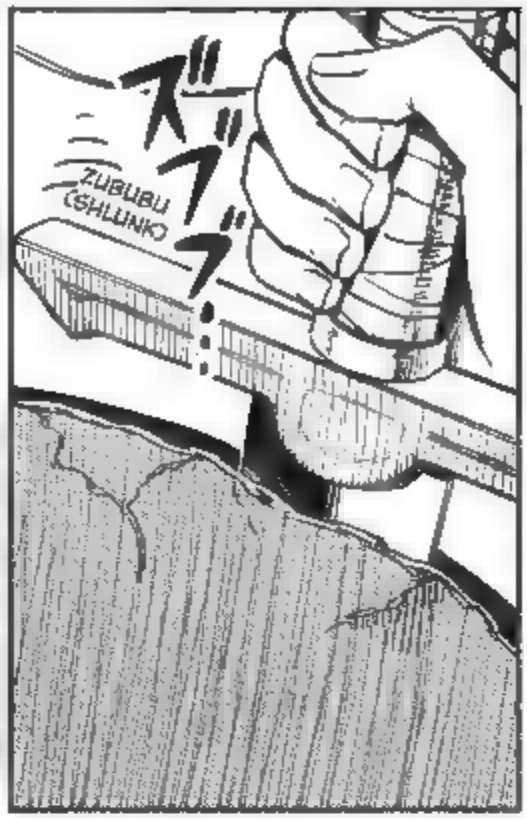
COULDN'T IT SEE WHICH PILLAR I HID BEHIND?

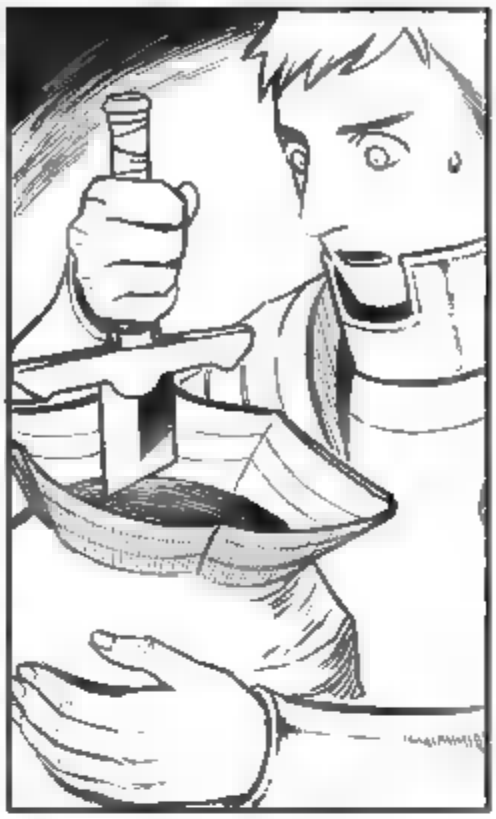
HUH?
ガチャン
GACHAN (CLANK)

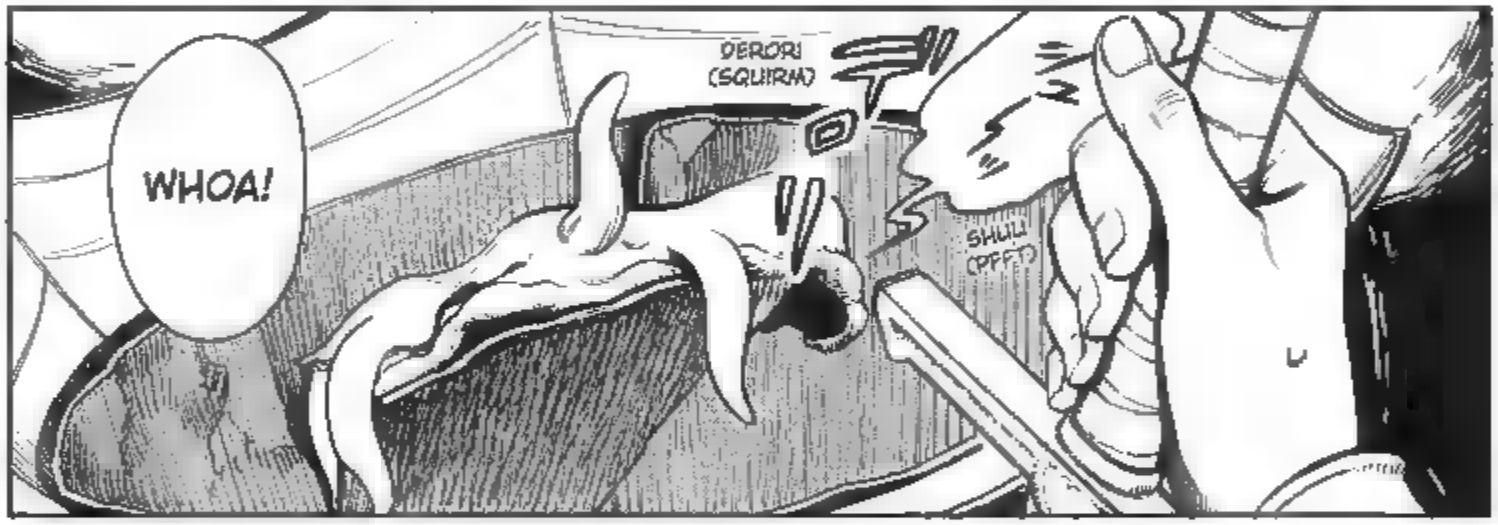

THERE'S A GAP...
...IN THE EDGE...

ばっ
BA (WHIP)
IS THERE SOME-THING IN THE HEAD AFTER ALL?

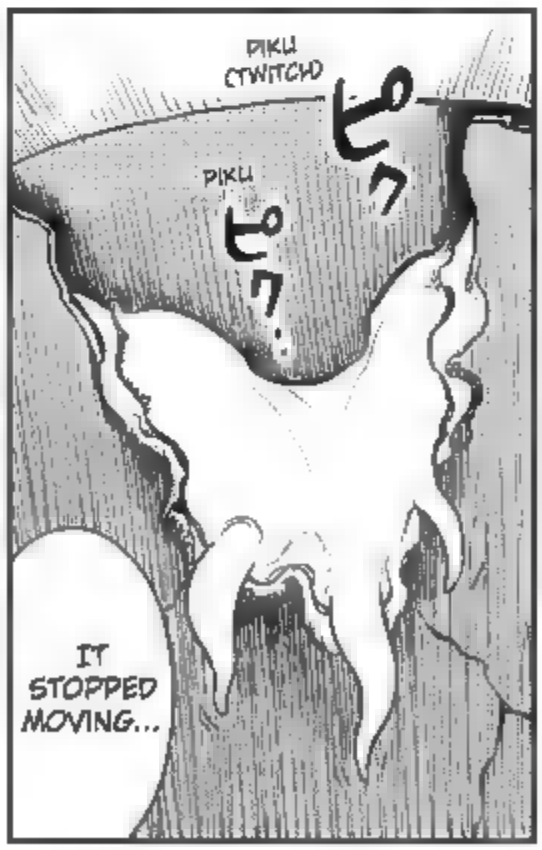
GU
(YANK)
PAKYA
(CRACK)


ZUBUBU
(SHLUNK)

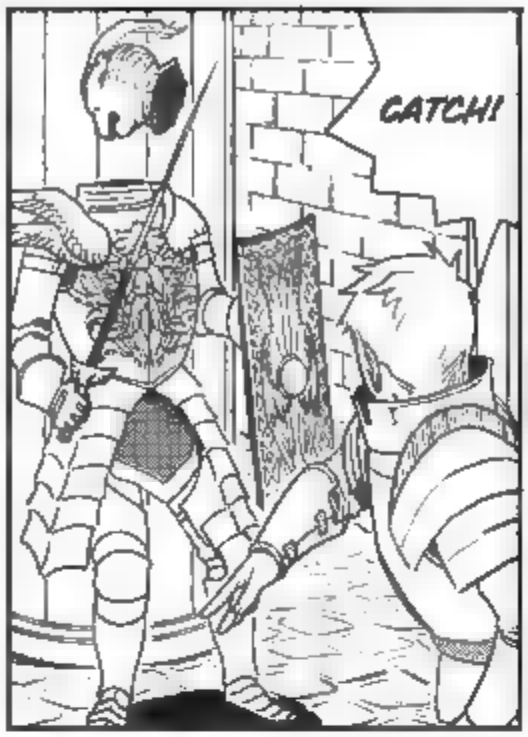



WHOA!
DERORI
(SQUIRM)
SHUU
(PFFT)

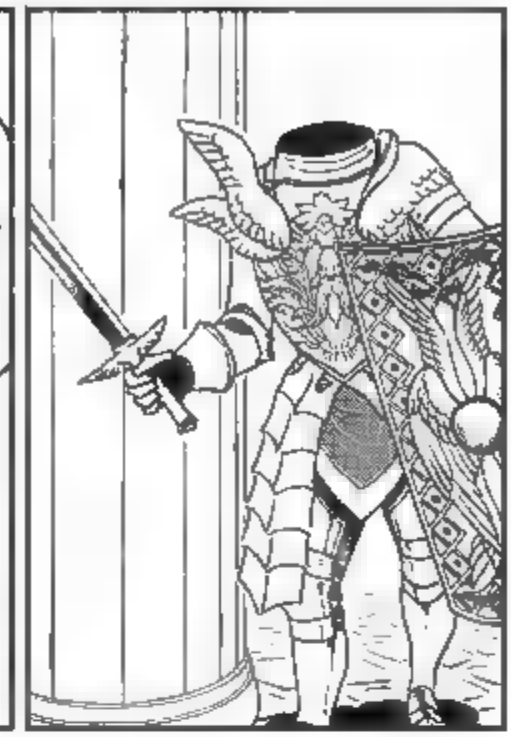
SO THEY'RE FINE WHEN YOU CUT THEM APART...
...BECAUSE THEY'RE COLONIES OF INDIVIDUALS ANYWAY.


PIKU
(TWITCH)
PIKU
IT STOPPED MOVING...

A MOLLUSK! OH, I SEE!
IT WAS STUCK TO THE INSIDE!!


CATCH!

NOW THAT IT'S CRACKED OPEN, MAYBE...
IS IT LOOKING FOR ITS HEAD?



ゴロリ
GORORI (ROLL)

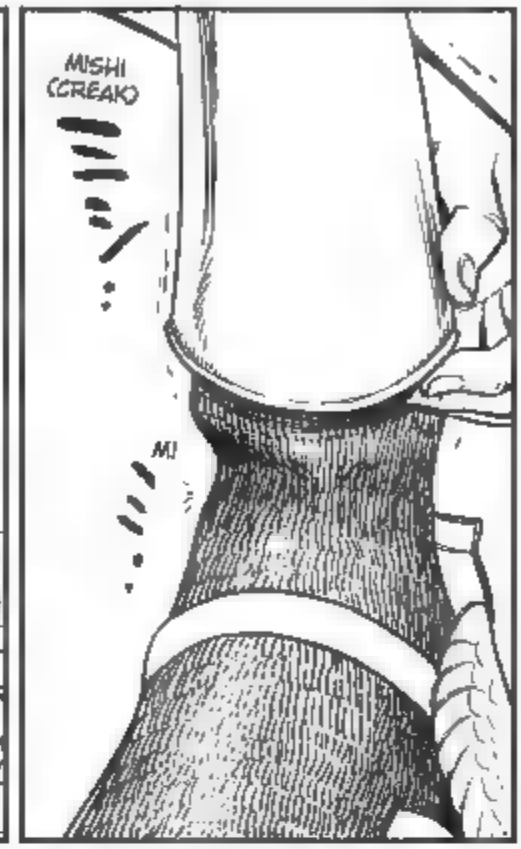
ガポ
GAPO (PLUNK)

GORO (ROLL)
ゴロ
GORO
ゴロ...

ガシャン
GASHAN (CRASH)

DO (WHUD)

ZUBON (POP)
ズボン


MISHI (CREAK)
ミシ
MI

GUI (TUG)
グイ

THEY'RE LINKED AT THE JOINTS ...
...AND THEY MIMIC MUSCLE MOTIONS BY CONTRACTING?
ZUPO (POP)
ズポ

HMM. INTERESTING.
HOW MANY ARE IN HERE ANYWAY?

GURI (TWIST)
グリ
PAKYU (CRACK)
パキュ

NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR THIS.
GOTO (THUNK)
ゴト

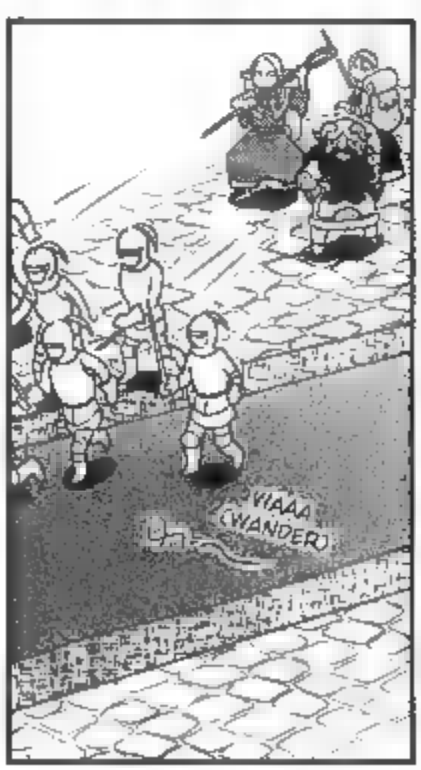
AH!

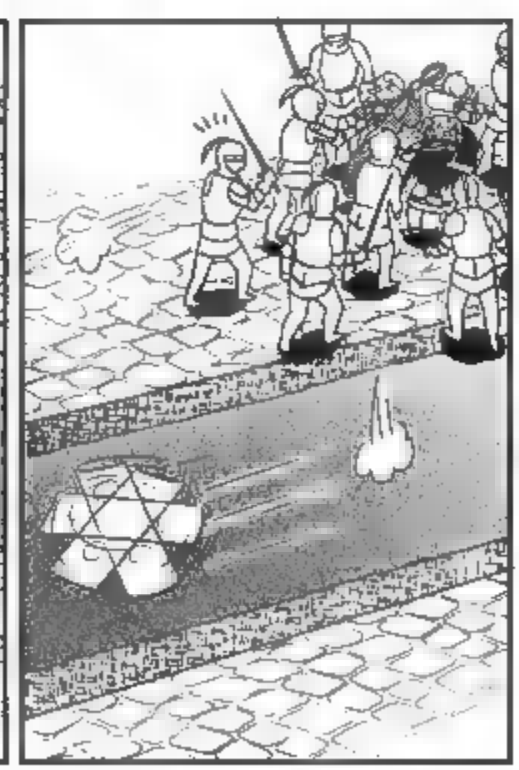
SHIGE (STARE)
しげ
ARE THEY HERMAPHRODITIC?
SHIGE
しげ
I WONDER WHICH ONE LAID THOSE EGGS...

BEG PAR-DON.
SUPO (POP)
スポ
GYU (GRIP)
ギュ

THIS IS NO TIME FOR...

HURRY, OVER HERE!
GUYS!

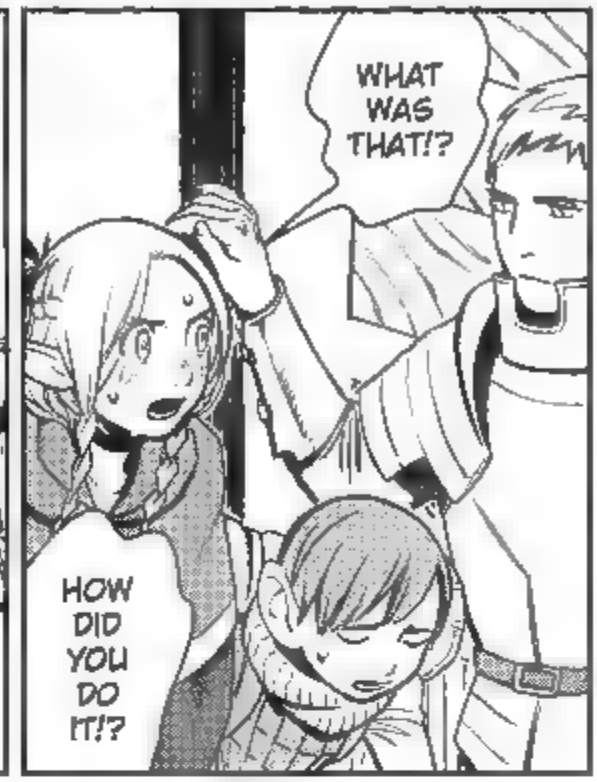

VIAAA (WANDER)



RAH!
SHUU (SLIDE)

SO THERE WAS A MAGI-CIAN!?
WHAT HAP-PENED?

AGH!


WHAT WAS THAT!?
HOW DID YOU DO IT!?

...HUH?

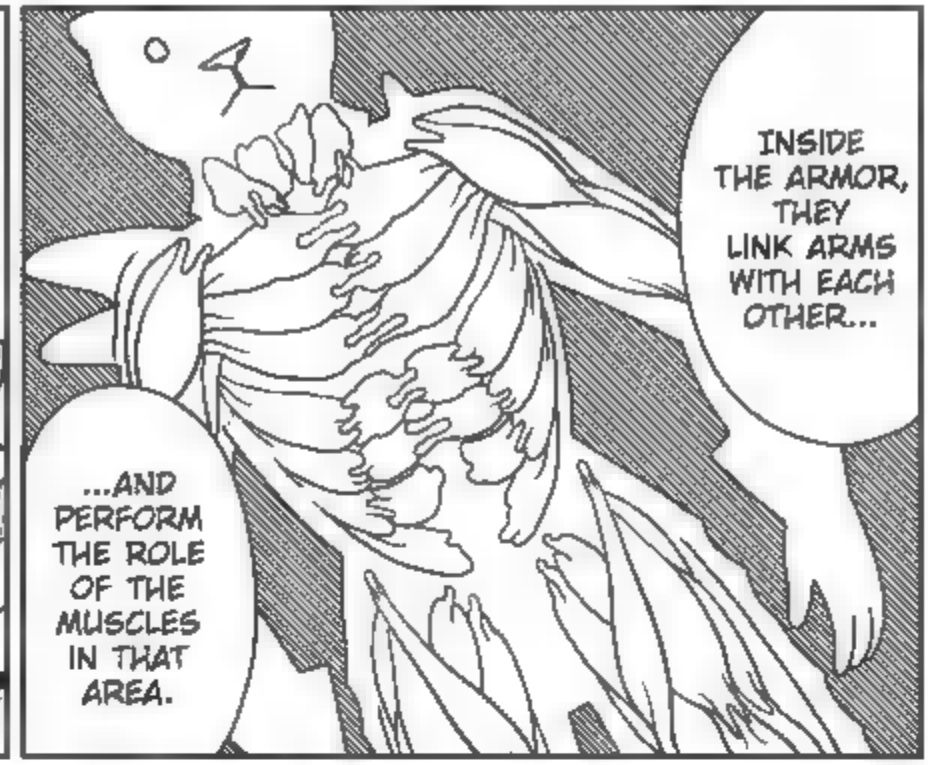
THE ARMOR WASN'T BEING CON-TROLLED. IT'S ALIVE.
NO, NO MAGICIAN.

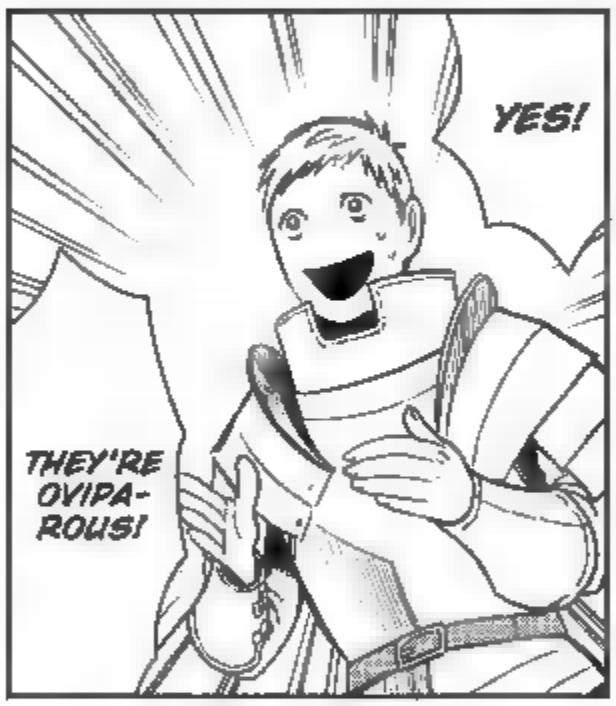
EW...

MEET THE REAL "LIVING ARMOR."
デロ
DERO (DOLL)

KAPA (POP)
LOOK AT THE INSIDE OF THIS ARMOR.
IT'S DOUBLE WALLED, AND SOME-THING'S BETWEEN THEM.

EACH INDIVIDUAL IS FRAGILE AND LIMITED IN ITS MOVEMENTS.
STILL, BY DIVVYING UP THE AREAS AND USING THE ARMOR'S FRAMEWORK, THEY CAN MOVE LIKE HUMANS.


INSIDE THE ARMOR, THEY LINK ARMS WITH EACH OTHER...
...AND PERFORM THE ROLE OF THE MUSCLES IN THAT AREA.


YES!
THEY'RE OVIPA-ROUS!

SPAWN-ING?
THEY COME FROM EGGS?
THEY ONLY ATTACK WHEN THEY FEEL THREATENED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE SPAWN-ING RIGHT NOW.
THEY'RE USUALLY MORE DOCILE.

STOP IT.
SHH.
IT'S CREEPY HOW FAST HE TALKS WHEN THE TALK TURNS TO MON-STERS.

IF WE PUBLISH THIS, WE'LL ROCK THE INDUSTRY ITS FOUN-DATIONS!

NOBODY EVER NOTICED BEFORE.
WE ALL ASSUMED THEY WERE MAGIC-POWERED ARMOR.

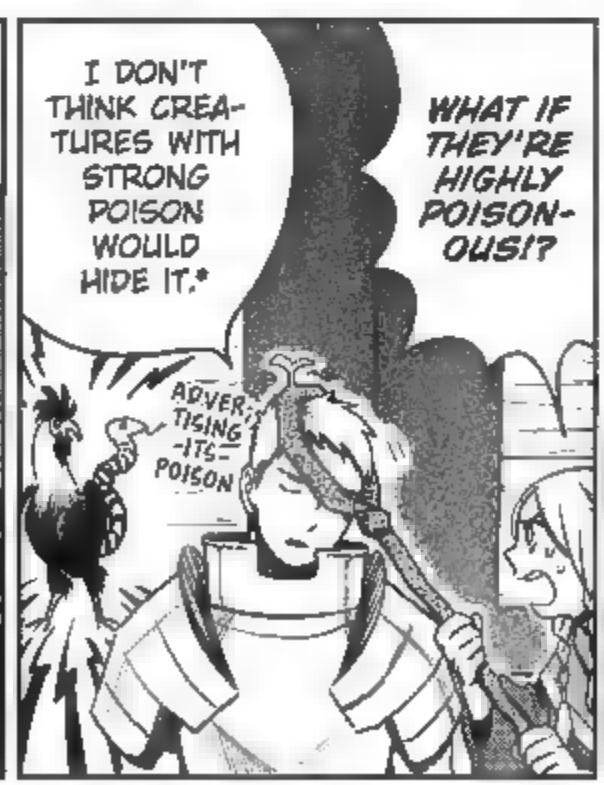
SAY WHAT!?
THEY LOOK PRETTY NUTRITIOUS, DON'T THEY?
WE CAN'T EAT THE ARMOR, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE THINGS INSIDE IT!?

SENSHI.

LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.

BUT EVERY FOOD'S AN UNKNOWN ON THE FIRST BITE.
WE CAN'T EAT SOMETHING WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
IT'S NOT A CHALLENGE WE NEED TO ATTEMPT NOW!!

WELL ...
HOW DO WE COOK THESE?


I DON'T THINK CREATURES WITH STRONG POISON WOULD HIDE IT.*
WHAT IF THEY'RE HIGHLY POISONOUS!?
ADVERTISING -ITS- POISON

I'VE NEVER COOKED THESE BEFORE, SO NO GUARANTEES.
THANKS, SENSHI!
YEAH!
NOOOOOO!

*THEY DO.

IT'S PROBABLY LIKE AN ADDUCTOR MUSCLE.
A SHELL LIGAMENT USED TO CLOSE THE SHELL.

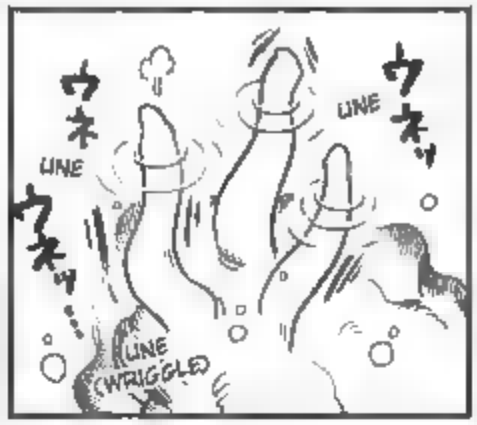
WHEN I TRIED TO PRY IT OPEN BY HAND, IT WOULDN'T BUDGE...
...BUT WHEN I CUT THIS BIT, IT COULDN'T KEEP ITS SHELL CLOSED ANY-MORE.

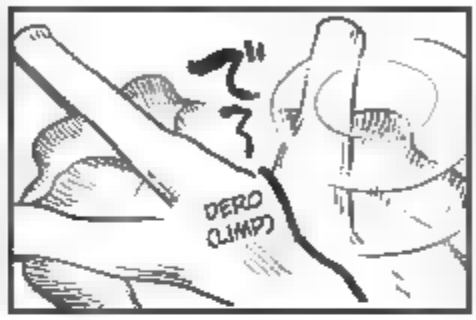
THIS BACK SIDE, HERE...

RIGHT. THAT'S SET-TLED.
GET THE MOLLUSKS OUT OF THE ARMOR.

I SEE. SHELLFISH, HM?

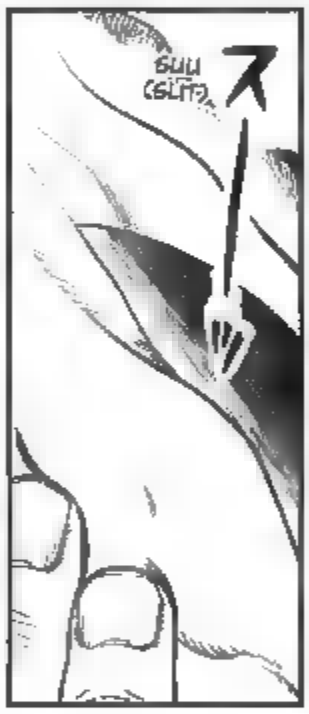
SO WE CAN'T PURGE THE SAND WITH FRESH WATER. I THOUGHT NOT.
WELL, SURE.
IT DROWNED.


ウネッ
UNE
ウネッ
UNE
UNE (WRIGGLE)


でろ
DERO (LIMP)

CHAPON (SPLISH)

I'LL TAKE THE INNARDS OUT. I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE IN THERE.
CAN HAVE...?


SUU (SLIT)

DO WE EVEN NEED TO PURGE THEM?
LET'S OPEN ONE UP.
BICHAN (SPLAT)
ビチャン

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GET TOUGH?

INTO THE SOUP...

JYA (SHUFF)
SPICES ...
...AND SLICED LIVING ARMOR.

MEDIC-INAL HERBS ...

OIL...

AND THEN...
...LET'S MAKE THE OLD STAN-DARD TOO.

PAKO (CLUNK)
...WE'LL STEAM.

THE HEAD...

SHUWA (HISS)
JYUUUU (SIZZZL)
SHUWA

PACHI (CRACKLE)
PACHI

DAN (CLANK)
DON (CLONK)

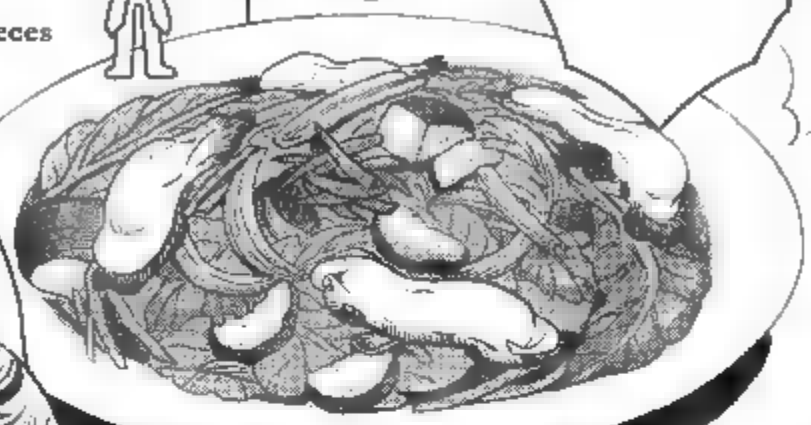
Living Armor Full-Course Meal

Living Armor Dwarf-Style Stir-Fry

Ingredients (Serves 3~4)

Antitoxin herb——2 bunches
Medicinal herb——1 bunch
Living armor——7~8 med. pieces
Special sauce——1 tbsp.
Salt and pepper——To [redacted]

IT'S DONE!!



WHOA...

Living Armor Casserole

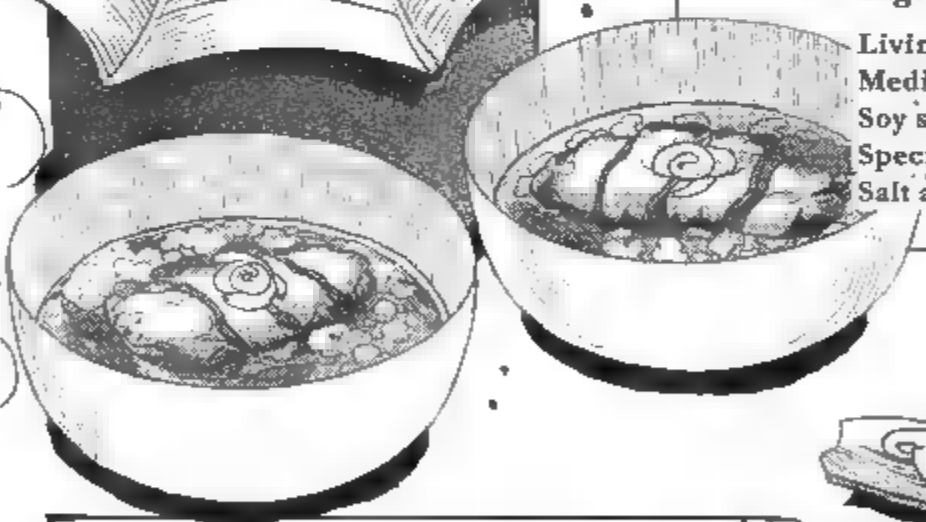
Ingredients (Serves 5~6)

Living armor (in shell)——1
Seasonings (salt, soy sauce, vinegar, etc.)——To taste

Living Armor Soup

Ingredients (Serves 4)

Living armor——3~4 large pieces
Medicinal herb——1 bunch
Soy sauce——1 tbsp.
Special sauce——1 tbsp.
Salt and pepper——To taste



Grilled Living Armor

Ingredients (Serves 1)

Living armor——1 large piece
Seasonings (salt, soy sauce, vinegar, etc.)——To taste

FWOO...
FWOO...
HM?
IT SMELLS DECENT.
HOT !!
KUN (SNIFF)
IT SMELLS LIKE IRON...
HERE.
I SEE.
IF HE DIES, LET'S JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.
RIGHT.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO EAT LIVING ARMOR SO MUCH.
WE CAN'T REALLY TRY IT BEFORE YOU DO.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐ
IT SHRANK.

IS HE DEAD!?
IT'S GOOD!

G—

...IT COMES LATER!
THE TASTE !!
AT FIRST, I DIDN'T THINK IT HAD ANY FLAVOR, BUT...

DEPENDS ON THE TYPE.
HOW LONG DOES FOOD POISONING TAKE TO MANI-FEST?

IT'S REALLY GOOD!
WOW! WHAT IS THIS!?

NOT BAD. I COULD'VE MADE IT BETTER THOUGH.
SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE, HM?

AH!
PAKU (CHOMP)

H-HOW IS IT?
A LITTLE STICKY.
IT'S NOT BAD THOUGH.

HM.
PAKU (CHOMP)
I SEE.

DOES ANTI-TOXIN WORK ON FOOD POISONING TOO?
I'M HUNGRY.
THE STUFF STIR-FRIED WITH MEDICINAL HERBS SHOULD BE OKAY.

THE STEAMED ONES LOOK GREAT TOO.
ほっかり
HOKKARI (WARM)

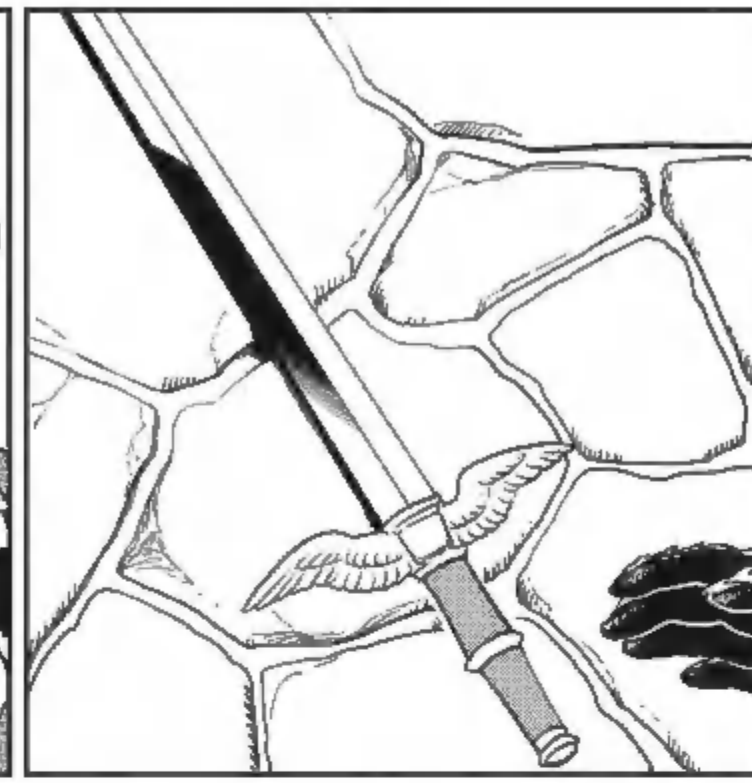
.....
IT TASTES A LITTLE LIKE MUSH-ROOMS...
DOESN'T IT!?

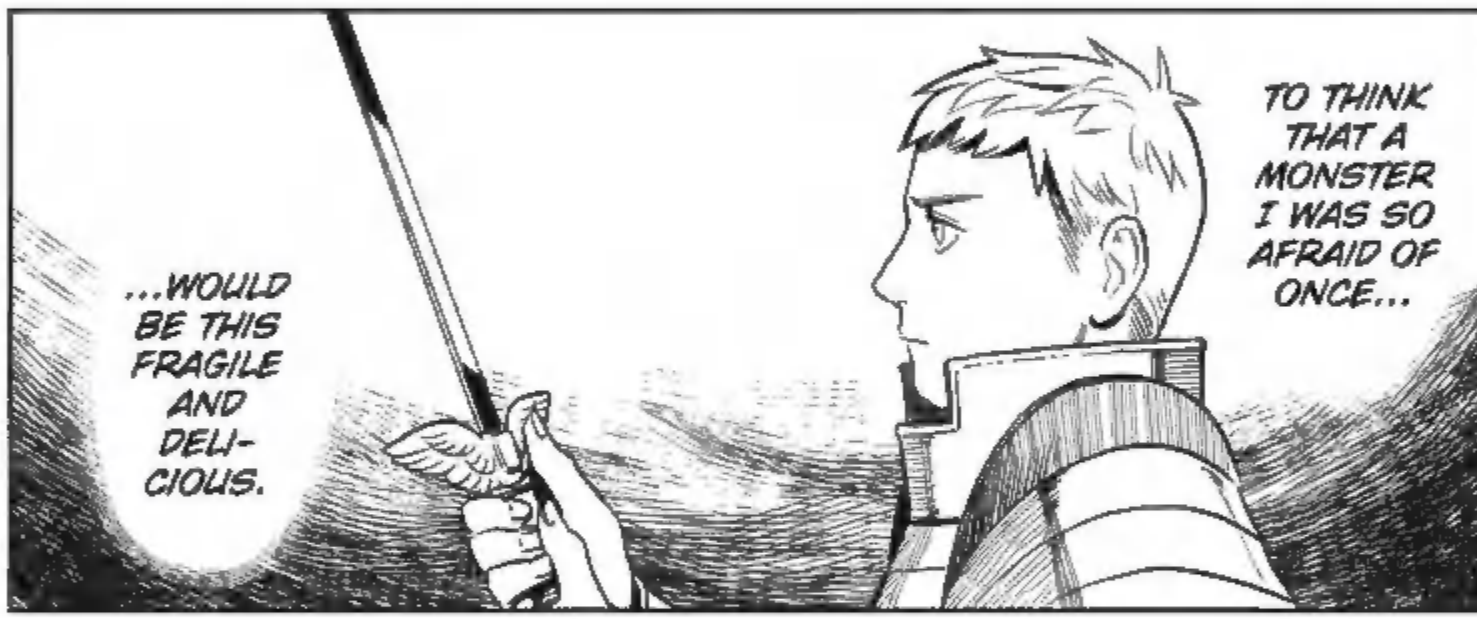
KUN (SNIFF)
KUN
GOKU (GULP)

THE SMELL OF THE HELMET MUST'VE GOTTEN SEALED IN.
THEY'RE MUSTY.
YUCK...

THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D TURN OUT BAD...

I WONDER IF THESE SHELLS WILL BIO-DEGRADE.




...WOULD BE THIS FRAGILE AND DELI-CIOUS.
TO THINK THAT A MONSTER I WAS SO AFRAID OF ONCE...

I HOPE THEY HATCH SAFELY...
ZORORI (STROKE)

YEAH.
WHY NOT TAKE THAT ONE?
YOUR SWORD BROKE, DIDN'T IT...?

NYU
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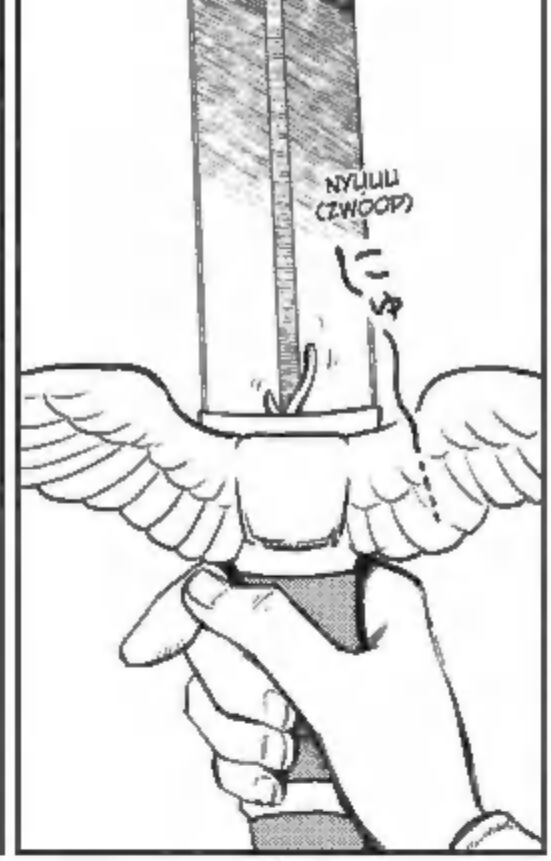
NYUUU (ZWOOP)
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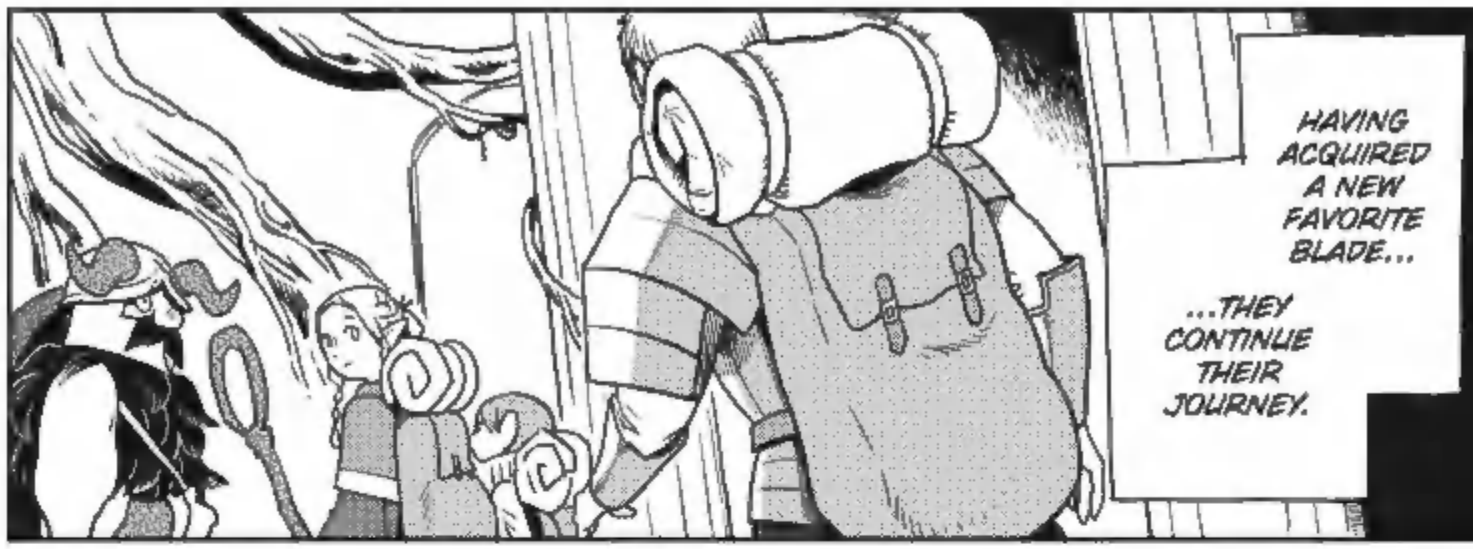
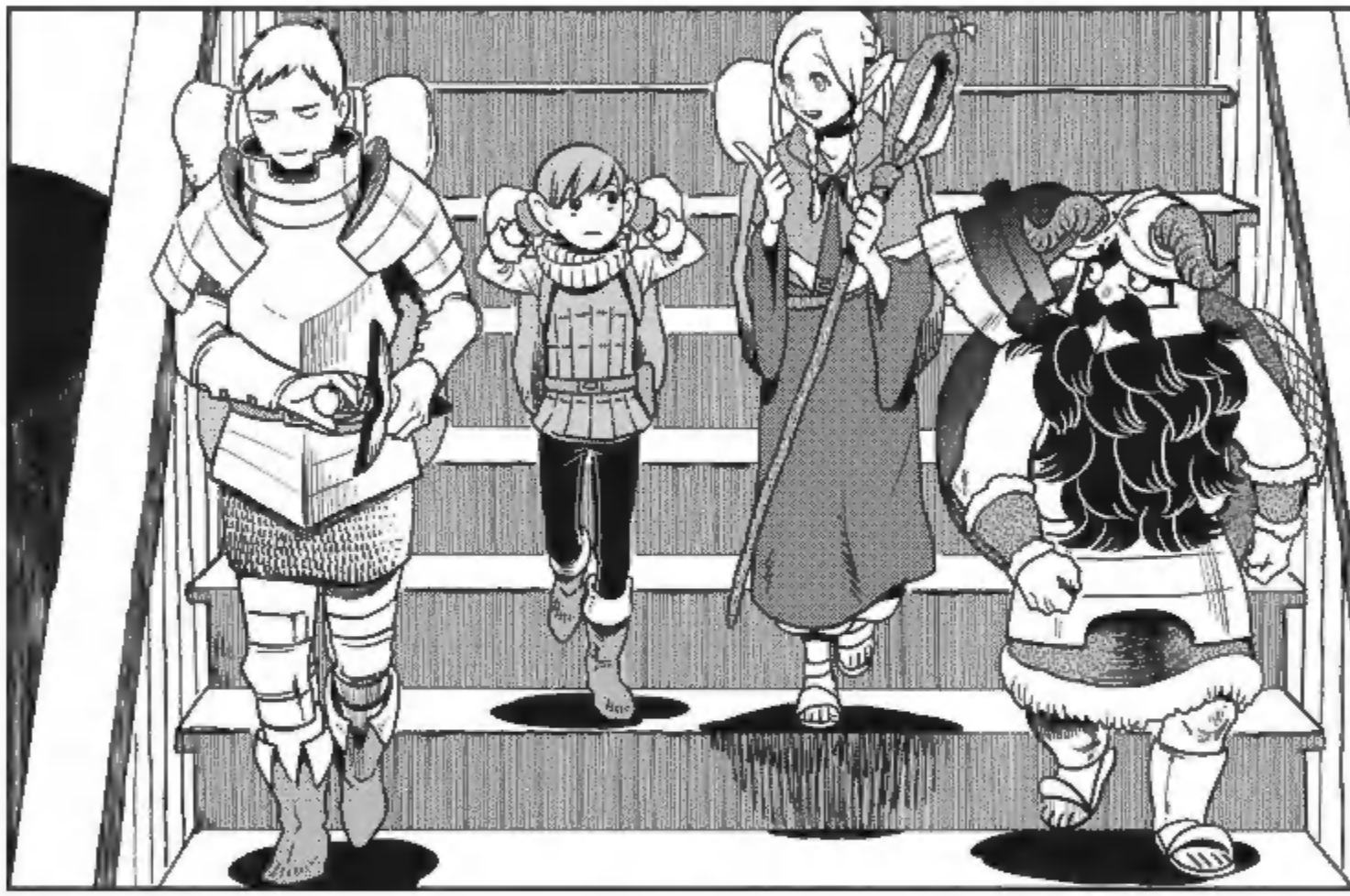
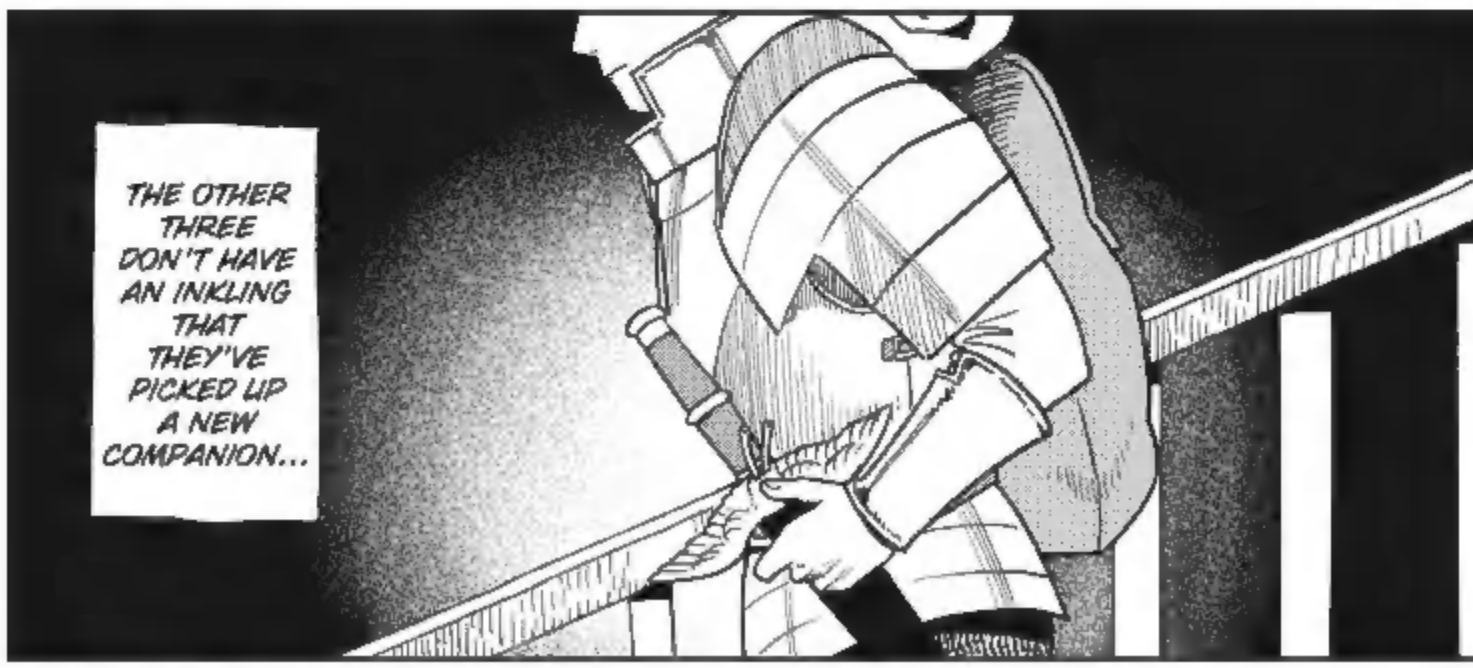
HM?

IF YOU'RE USING THAT SWORD, WANT ME TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT CURSED?
BA (FLINCH)
LAIOS!

IF YOU PICK UP A WEIRD CURSE, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME.
HOW ARE YOU SO SURE?
THIS DEFINITELY ISN'T CURSED! I CAN TELL!
NO, NO!! IT'S FINE!!


HAVING ACQUIRED A NEW FAVORITE BLADE...
...THEY CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.




THE OTHER THREE DON'T HAVE AN INKLING THAT THEY'VE PICKED UP A NEW COMPANION...